Problems of Israelis in Lebanon - Kidnapping
+ Swap.

Prisoners Exchange

Routing: [cai brt]

Slug: [BC-ME-GEN--Lebanon-Israel-Prisoners]

Headline: [Lebanon ese prisoners released by Israel return home to rousing welcome by thousands]

Eds. note: [Eds: PMs RECAP]

Photo: [AP Photos]

Byline: [By SAM F. GHATTAS]

Bytitle: [Associated Press Writers]

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ Israel and Hezbollah exchanged hundreds of prisoners in a German-brokered deal Thursday but just as the swap was being completed the guerrillas suggested they could capture more Israelis and Israel warned of dire consequences if its soldiers are targeted.

In the swap, Israel freed 400 Palestinians prisoners in the West Bank and Gaza and 30 other Arabs, including 23 Lebanese. Lebanon on Friday was to receive the remains of 60 guerrillas on the border with Israel, completing the first stage of the deal.

While the former Lebanese prisoners arrived home to a hero's welcome by jubilant throngs, confident guerrilla comrades and a supportive government, it was a sobering return to Israel of three soldiers' remains and an Israeli businessman who was whisked off for interrogation.

Showered in rose petals and rice, the newly released Lebanese prisoners received a red carpet welcome at Beirut airport and tearfully greeted relatives before driving off to a massive Hezbollah party. Tens of thousands of joyous Lebanese, many of them Hezbollah supporters, lined the airport highway, cheering and waving flags, and packed a hall where Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah addressed the crowds.

The prisoner exchange boosts the regional standing of Hezbollah because of its success in freeing Palestinian prisoners and extracting concessions from Israel. Hezbollah, which the United States considers a terror group, warned it would carry out more kidnappings, if necessary.

With the freed prisoners next to him, Nasrallah warned that his guerrillas could resort anew to capturing Israelis to trade them for three Lebanese he said were still held by Israel.

Turning to a huge poster of a guerrilla ambush in 2000 in which three Israeli soldiers whose bodies were exchanged Thursday, Nasrallah said: "This is a choice."

He went on to say that Hezbollah guerrillas were heavy-handed when they killed three Israeli soldiers dead. "I pledge to you that, next time, they will bring them alive," he added.

In Israel, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon spoke at a memorial service in front of three caskets, covered with Israeli flags, and a woman sang mournfully in Hebrew. But he had a stern warning to Hezbollah against trying to seize Israeli soldiers.

"Israel will not allow any enemy or terror group to turn kidnapping and ransom into a system. There are means we have not yet used. If, heaven forbid, the circumstances are changed, we will not hesitate to use them," he said. He did not elaborate on the means.

Israeli businessman Elhanan Tannenbaum, a colonel in the Israeli army reserves who spent more than three years of captivity in Lebanon, had a short private reunion with his family at the airport in Israel before being taken for a medical checkup in police custody to a military base east of Tel Aviv. Tannenbaum was kidnapped reportedly while engaged in a shady business deal, and there were concerns he also may have given state secrets to Hezbollah.

The elaborate prisoner exchange process underlined the animosity between neighboring Lebanon and Israel, who remain at war.

Separate planes departed Lebanon and Israel before dawn and taxied to the same hangar in a military airport near Cologne, Germany, where the swap took place.

Israel released the Palestinians in the Palestinian territories, where jubilant relatives greeted them with cheers for Hezbollah.

The remains of the 60 Lebanese guerrillas were handed over the International Committee of the Red Cross. On Friday, Lebanon will take delivery of the bodies, which were kept Thursday night in a border buffer zone in southern Lebanon.

The prisoners freed Thursday included 21 Lebanese. Hezbollah's television station, Al Manar, reported that one Lebanese wanted by authorities in Beirut opted to stay in Israel, while another Lebanese wanted in Beirut stayed in Germany to seek political asylum.

Also freed Thursday was a German convicted of spying for Hezbollah. He stayed in Germany. Besides the Lebanese and the Palestinians, seven other Arabs were freed and were resting in a hotel in Beirut, Hezbollah officials said.

The homecoming reception Thursday in Beirut was filled with emotions.

Sheik Abdel Karim Obeid, a Hezbollah leader and one of the most famous prisoners released, burst into tears as his children and other relatives mobbed him, hugging and kissing. The scene was repeated with other men, who met their loved ones at the airport

VIP lounge.

"I feel like I'm born again," said Obeid, who was snatched by Israeli commandos from his south Lebanon house in 1989.

"We hope for more victories and more liberation of prisoners, God willing," another famous ex-prisoner, guerrilla leader Mustafa Dirani, said earlier by phone from the German government plane that brought the prisoners to Lebanon.

Israeli commandos kidnapped Dirani from his bed in an elaborate operation in 1994 deep inside Lebanon.

The sides are to launch a second stage of the German-brokered deal, with Israel to receive concrete information on missing airman Ron Arad, within three months. In exchange, Israel would release Samir Kantar, a Lebanese militant who has been in an Israeli prison since 1979 for killing three Israelis.

Nothing has been heard of the whereabouts or fate of Arad for years. His plane was shot down over Lebanon in 1986 and he was captured by Shiite guerrillas.

^pvs-sfg

CAC9726----
r i BC-ME-GEN--Hamas Mashaal 03-24 0602
intjw 222 08 cai brt jer
^BC-ME-GEN--Hamas-Mashaal<

Khaled Mashaal profile

^Assassination of Hamas founder thrusts former physics teacher to leadership<
^By SAM F. GHATTAS=
^Associated Press Writer=

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ A soft-spoken former physics professor who survived a bungled Israeli assassination attempt in 1997, when Israel poisoned him then was forced to provide the antidote that saved his life, has emerged as leader of the Palestinian Islamic militant group Hamas.

Khaled Mashaal heads the political bureau of Hamas, the highest decision making body in the group, making him Hamas' leader since Monday's assassination of the group's revered founder, Sheik Ahmed Yassin. The political bureau had set policy in coordination with Yassin. Abdel Aziz Rantisi was elected Tuesday in a secret vote to be the Hamas chief in the Gaza Strip.

Mashaal, in a statement faxed to The Associated Press in Damascus, Syria, pledged Hamas would escalate its activities, despite its grief over Yassin's death. ``The course of steadfastness, holy war and resistance will continue and be escalated, God willing,'' Mashaal said. He lives in exile in Damascus.

Mashaal has served as a member of the political bureau since its inception and was elected by members as its leader in 1996.

Hamas' political leaders are quick to differentiate between the military wing, Izzedine al-Qassam, and the political arm, saying Izzedine operates according to its targets of opportunity and its own decision on operations. Western diplomats long have maintained all Hamas follows the leadership's guidance.

Born in a small village in the Ramallah area of the West Bank in 1956, 11 years before Jordan lost the area to Israel in the 1967 Mideast war, Mashaal moved with his family to Kuwait, an oil-rich emirate where many Palestinians worked.

He led Islamist Palestinians in Kuwait University, where he challenged the dominance of Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization on Palestinians in student elections. Earning a degree in physics, he went on to teach it.

In 1990, when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and many Palestinians sympathized with the Iraqi dictator, Mashaal moved with his family to Jordan, where he gave up teaching to work feverishly in Hamas.

Seven years later, Sept. 25, 1997, Israeli agents tried to kill him in a a bungled assassination attempt in Amman, Jordan, spraying him with poison on an Amman street.

While Mashaal lay in hospital, an angry King Hussein, who had signed peace with Israel in 1994, convinced Israel to send the antidote that saved his life. That deal, which freed the Israeli agents who'd been caught in a foot chase, also required Israel to free Yassin from jail.

As Jordan's relationship with Hamas deteriorated, Jordan expelled Mashaal to Qatar. He moved on a month later to Damascus, where Syrian authorities did not restrict the group's political activities.

However, Mashaal was forced to keep silent after U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell visited Damascus in May with a warning to President Bashar Assad to either reign in and expel the militants such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad as well as Lebanon's Hezbollah or face tough U.S. sanctions. Hamas closed its Damascus office, and Hamas leaders made statements only while visiting neighboring Lebanon.

However, one Western diplomat in Damascus described the changes in the Palestinian presence in Syria as cosmetic and said the groups remain operational.

Mashaal, with sharp eyes and a beard with gray highlights, was married in 1981 and has four sons and three daughters.

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AP-LD-03-24-04 1630GMT<

Prisoners released

CAZ2788------
r i BC-Israel-LebanesePrison 3rdLd-Writethru 06-10 0621
intjw 222 08 cai apw jer brt
^BC-Israel-Lebanese Prisoner, 3rd Ld-Writethru(
^Changes dateline from JERUSALEM(
^Former Hezbollah prisoner gets a hero's welcome in Lebanese hometown(
^Eds: RECASTS throughout to UPDATE with celebrations welcoming Barzawi in his hometown, comments by Barzawi and other details, ADDS photo advisory line; CHANGES headline, byline; No pickup.(
^AP Photo BEI101(
^By MORSHED ALI=
^Associated Press Writer=

BAALBEK, Lebanon (AP) _ A Hezbollah guerrilla returned to a hero's welcome in his hometown in eastern Lebanon Monday night after his release several hours earlier from an Israeli jail where he spent 15 years.

Israel cited health reasons for the release of Mohammed Ali Barzawi, who was captured during a guerrilla attack on Israeli troops in southeastern Lebanon in April 1987.

Barzawi was freed as a goodwill gesture to the Lebanese guerrilla group that seized three Israeli soldiers in October 2000, according to Israeli military officials speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Israeli army said Barzawi's release was not part of any prisoner exchange deal with the Syrian and Iranian-backed Hezbollah.

Barzawi arrived to a tumultuous welcome in his hometown of Baalbek in eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. Israel released him in southern Lebanon.

About 500 relatives and Hezbollah supporters gathered at Baalbek's entrance to greet Barzawi with rice and rose pedals amid chants of ``Allah Akbar,'' or God is Great, and ``Death to Israel.''

Waving Lebanese and Hezbollah flags, the crowd hailed Barzawi and other guerrillas still held in Israel for fighting Israeli troops during their 18-year occupation of a border zone in southern Lebanon that ended in May 2000.

Brandishing a Kalashnikov assault rifle and wearing the traditional checkered Palestinian kiffeyeh, Barzawi was driven to the ancient city's main square in a convertible jeep.

Addressing about 5,000 people in a Baalbek public square, Barzawi said, ``I thank God who brought me out of Israeli prisons and cells. I cannot describe to you what is happening in the (Israeli) Nafha prison. There is complete darkness in that prison.''

Barzawi, 37, arrived from Israel in a two-vehicle convoy belonging to the International Committee of the Red Cross. The vehicles reached a Lebanese army checkpoint at the Lebanese border town of Naqoura at 4.15 p.m. (1315 GMT).

Once on Lebanese territory, Barzawi stepped out of the car and knelt down to kiss the ground and offer a prayer of thanks, witnesses said.

A delegation of about 100 Hezbollah members, led by Sheik Nabil Kaouk, the group's commander in south Lebanon, welcomed Barzawi.

After embracing him, Kaouk put a wreath of flowers around Barzawi's neck and handed him small Hezbollah and Palestinian flags.

Flashing the V-for-victory sign, a smiling Barzawi waved to journalists before the convoy, led by an ICRC official, drove to the southern town of Nabatiyeh, where he was greeted by his mother and relatives with hugs and kisses.

``I am very happy with my freedom,'' Barzawi said. However, he said he felt sad for the Lebanese and Palestinians still held prisoners in Israel.

Israel says Barzawi was involved in an attack on an army base in 1987 in which no Israelis were killed.

Israel is negotiating with Hezbollah _ through German mediators _ to try to get back the bodies of the three soldiers who were abducted while patrolling the Lebanese border. Hezbollah has also claimed responsibility for the abduction of reserve Lt. Col. Elhanan Tennenbaum.

Hezbollah said it wants to exchange the Israelis for the release of an undetermined number of Lebanese and Arab prisoners held in Israel.

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AP-LD-06-10-02 2029GMT(

Swap.

CAL9986------
r i BC-ME-GEN--Lebanon-Israe 4thLd-Writethru 08-25 0638
222 08 intjw jer cai brt
^BC-ME-GEN--Lebanon-Israel-Prisoners, 4th Ld-Writethru(
^Israel hands over bodies of two Hezbollah guerrillas(
^Eds: ADDS details on German mediation in new 5th graf.(
^By HUSSEIN DAKROUB=
^Associated Press Writer=

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ Hundreds of relatives, some waving Hezbollah flags, received the bodies of two of the militant group's members Monday after Israel returned them to Lebanon as part of efforts to arrange an Israeli-Hezbollah prisoner swap, officials from both sides said.

The bodies of Ammar Hussein Hammoud, 24, and Ghassan Mohammed Zaatar, 31, were brought by International Committee of the Red Cross to the Lebanese side of the border at Naqoura at 4:30 p.m. (13:30 GMT).

Following a short prayer service, the simple, flag-draped wooden coffins carrying the guerrillas' remains were placed in two Hezbollah ambulances and taken to a hospital in the southern Lebanese town of Bint Jbeil, before being sent to their respective home towns.

Sheik Nabil Kaouk, the Hezbollah commander in southern Lebanon, delivered a short speech saying the hand over was ``in line with Hezbollah's commitment to bring home the bodies of all our martyrs.'' He thanked the ICRC for handling the coffin transfers.

German mediators, who have succeeded in arranging prisoners' swaps between Lebanon and Israel in the past, have been in regular contact with Israeli and Hezbollah officials, a German government official said on condition of anonymity. He refused to disclose what involvement, if any, Germany had in the latest developments, saying this could jeopardize the mission.

Hammoud was killed after carrying out a suicide attack against an Israeli military convoy on the Qlai-Marjayoun road in southern Lebanon on Dec. 30, 1999, according to a Hezbollah statement faxed to The Associated Press.

Zaatar was killed in fighting with Israeli troops in Iqlim al-Tuffah region in southern Lebanon on Nov. 20, 1998.

An Israeli security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said their bodies were being returned as ``part of negotiations taking place through coordinators to make a deal to bring back missing Israeli soldiers and citizens.''

Hezbollah says it holds four Israelis. The Iranian-backed group, which is on a U.S. list of terrorist organizations, is demanding the release of 13 Lebanese prisoners held in Israel, including guerrilla leaders Mustafa Dirani and Sheik Abdul-Karim Obeid. Hezbollah also wants an unspecified number of other Arab detainees being held in Israel released.

Israel kidnapped Obeid in 1989 and Dirani in 1994 to use them as bargaining chips in any swap for Israeli fighter pilot Ron Arad, who was shot down over south Lebanon in 1986 and captured by Dirani's guerrillas. Arad's whereabouts remain unknown.

A Hezbollah official refused to say if the group had offered Israel anything in return for the handover.

Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah said in a statement that ``the recovery of some martyrs' bodies ... (came) in the context of reactivating negotiations through German mediators, which we hope they will continue in order to achieve the desired results, God willing.''

In a Saudi newspaper interview published Aug. 18, Nasrallah said German mediators have restarted talks with Israel on a possible prisoner swap with Hezbollah. He also has renewed his group's threat to capture more Israelis if negotiations on a prisoner exchange failed to yield results.

Hezbollah, which led a guerrilla war against Israel's 18-year occupation of a border zone in southern Lebanon that ended in May 2000, kidnapped three Israeli soldiers on the Lebanon-Israel border and a businessman in October 2000.

Israeli army's chief rabbi declared the three soldiers dead in 2001.

(pvs/pg)

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Prisoners Swapping

CAJ3008------
r i BC-Lebanon-Israel 02-15 0437
04 02 intj cai apw jer brt
^BC-Lebanon-Israel
^Hezbollah claims deal with Israel to include Palestinians in prisoner exchange<

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ The leader of the militant Hezbollah movement claimed that Israel had agreed in principle to include Palestinian detainees in an exchange of prisoners.

Ranaan Gissin, spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, declined comment Friday.

Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, speaking on Qatar's Al-Jazeera television station on Thursday, said that during nine months of negotiations Israel had refused to include Palestinian detainees it holds in any prisoner exchange with Hezbollah, but that it had changed its mind.

Hezbollah captured three Israeli soldiers in October 2000 in the disputed Chebaa Farms area on Lebanon's border with the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. Later that year, a fourth Israeli, Elhanan Tennenbaum, a businessman, was apparently lured to Lebanon under false pretenses and abducted by Hezbollah.

The group refused to give any information about the Israelis or say whether they were alive or dead. The Israeli army chief rabbi declared the three dead last year.

``They (Israelis) agreed in principle. At the beginning, and for nine months, they did not agree in principle that the swap should include Palestinian detainees, and we were insisting on that,'' Nasrallah said.

Hezbollah is demanding the release of 13 Lebanese prisoners held in Israel, including guerrilla leaders Sheik Abdul-Karim Obeid and Mustafa Dirani, who were kidnapped from Lebanon by Israeli commandos in 1989 and 1994 respectively. The group also demanded the release of other Arab detainees.

``Now they have agreed in principle, but the disagreement between us and them is over the number ... of detainees that should be included in the swap. The difference is still high between what they are suggesting and what we are demanding,'' Nasrallah said.

He did not elaborate and it wasn't clear how many Palestinian detainees he was referring to.

``The matters are moving slowly, and I believe that Sharon is following this policy on purpose,'' Nasrallah said, without elaborating.

Germany and unnamed foreign mediators were said to have taken part in negotiations aiming at securing a prisoner swap between Israel and Hezbollah.

The group led a guerrilla war against the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, which lasted until Israeli forces withdrew in May 2000.

Hezbollah has since launched sporadic attacks in the disputed Chebaa Farms area, including the one that captured the Israeli soldiers.

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AP-LD-02-15-02 1009GMT<

Swap

w0322-----
r i BC-Lebanon-Hezbollah-Pri 2ndLd-Writethru 04-10 0397
08 222 jer brt cai
^BC-Lebanon-Hezbollah-Prisoner, 2nd Ld-Writethru,0396<
^Hezbollah offers captured Israeli for sparing Palestinian lives
^Eds: Rewrites throughout to ADD background and byline.<
^By SAM F. GHATTAS=
^Associated Press Writer=

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ Hezbollah's leader on Thursday offered to trade a captured Israeli businessman his group holds in exchange for a guarantee that Israel would spare the lives of about 100 Palestinian guerrillas still holding out in the West Bank refugee camp of Jenin.

Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, in a statement issued by his office, offered that any mediator could come forward to work out the details of the deal.

He said his offer to the Israelis would be to release businessman Elhanan Tennenbaum, a reserve Israeli army colonel held by the guerrillas since October 2000, in return for sparing the lives of about 100 Palestinian guerrillas still trapped in the Jenin refugee camp.

A spokeswoman at Israel's defense ministry said that no official reaction could be given early Thursday.

Since Israel launched its offensive against Palestinians in the West Bank, Hezbollah has made it clear it wants to help them. The guerrillas have launched repeated attacks on Israeli troops in the Chebaa Farms area, including a series of hits on outposts on Wednesday.

Tennenbaum was captured by Hezbollah under unclear circumstances. He was believed to have been lured to Beirut from Europe under false pretenses and then was taken prisoner.

About a week before his capture, Hezbollah seized three Israeli soldiers in a guerrilla raid in the disputed Chebaa Farms area near the border in southern Lebanon.

Hezbollah had captured the four in hopes of exchanging them for 13 Lebanese prisoners still held by Israel. They include Lebanese guerrilla leaders Sheik Abdul-Karim Obeid and Mustafa Dirani, who were kidnapped from Lebanon by Israeli commandos in 1989 and 1994 respectively. The group also demanded the release of other Arab detainees.

Nasrallah has repeatedly said negotiations were underway for the trade of the four Israelis for Arab prisoners. But he has refused to give any information about the Israelis or say whether they were alive or dead.

Hezbollah led a guerrilla war against the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, which lasted fior 18 years until Israeli forces withdrew in May 2000.

AP-LD-04-10-02 2301GMT<

Swap.

CAB0145------
r i BC-Lebanon-Hezbollah-Isr 2ndLd-Writethru 04-28 0601
cai intjw apw 222 08 ort jer
^BC-Lebanon-Hezbollah-Israel, 2nd Ld-Writethru
^Hezbollah offers to trade Israel prisoners with Palestinians besieged in West Bank<
^Eds: ADDS Israeli reaction in new grafs 3-4, edits graf 5 to conform.<
^By BASSEM MROUE=
^Associated Press Writer=

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ Lebanon's anti-Israeli guerrilla group Hezbollah offered Sunday to release some of the Israeli prisoners it holds to win freedom for Palestinians holed up in the Church of the Nativity and in Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah.

Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah made the offer early Sunday in a statement read on Hezbollah's Al-Manar Television. According to the statement, Hezbollah was ready to start negotiations ``as of this moment.''

Israeli Defense Ministry spokesman Yarden Vatikay said Israel was not taking Hezbollah's proposal seriously.

``They are just trying to confuse the situation, every day they have new nonsense. Hezbollah's aim is to bother and antagonize, and carry out attacks,'' Vatikay said.

Hezbollah's offer comes as efforts continue to end the 26-day standoff at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, where more than 200 Palestinians, including about 30 wanted militants, were surrounded by Israeli forces.

Israel is also demanding that the Palestinian Authority hands over from Arafat's compound four Palestinians charged with the assassination of Zeevi in October. Instead, the four suspects were put on trial in Arafat's office in the West Bank town of Ramallah last week and sentenced to terms ranging from one to 18 years.

``In view of the dangers surrounding the fate of the four brothers who are accused of killing the Zionist tourism minister and who are besieged in Ramallah as well as the fate of the brothers surrounded in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and the failure of all efforts proposed to deal with those two cases, Hezbollah declares that it is ready to negotiate through any mediator possible to achieve the release of all those brothers and solve those two cases for good in return for whoever is agreed upon from the prisoners Hezbollah holds,'' the Hezbollah statement said.

Hezbollah captured three Israeli soldiers in October 2000 in Chebaa Farms, a disputed area on Lebanon's border with Syria's Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. Later that month, the group captured an Israeli businessman and reserve army colonel Elhanan Tennenbaum under unclear circumstances.

Hezbollah had captured the four hoping to exchange them for 13 Lebanese prisoners held by Israel. The group also demanded the release of other Arab detainees.

Sunday's Hezbollah statement did not mention the 13 Lebanese or the other Arabs.

Earlier this month, Nasrallah offered to trade Tennenbaum for a guarantee that Israel would spare the lives of about 100 Palestinian guerrillas then holding out in the West Bank refugee camp of Jenin. Israel never officially responded to the offer on Tennenbaum. Hours after the offer, Israeli soldiers took over Jenin and killed dozens of the gunmen Nasrallah had wanted spared.

Since the Jewish state launched its military offensive against Palestinian towns in the West Bank March 29, Hezbollah has made it clear it wants to help the Palestinians. Its guerrillas have launched repeated attacks on Israeli troops in Chebaa Farms, of which the latest was on Friday wounding four Israeli soldiers.

Hezbollah, backed by Syria and Iran, led a guerrilla war against Israel's 18-year occupation of a border zone in southern Lebanon which ended in May 2000.

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AP-LD-04-28-02 1231GMT<

CAQ1027------
u i BC-Lebanon-Prisoners 01-30 0395
cai intjw nat 222 08 brt jer
^BC-Lebanon-Prisoners
^Hezbollah rules out a prisoner swap before Israeli elections<
^By HUSSEIN DAKROUB=
^Associated Press Writer=

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ A prisoner swap with Israel is highly unlikely before Israel's Feb. 6 elections because the Jewish state has not accepted Hezbollah's demands for the release of Lebanese and Arab prisoners, Hezbollah's deputy leader said Tuesday.

Sheik Naim Kassem also renewed a threat made by Hezbollah's Secretary-General Sheik Hassan Nasrallah last week to capture more Israeli soldiers _ in addition to the four it seized last year _ in order to step up pressure on Israel.

In an interview with Lebanon's state-run television station late Tuesday, Kassem said negotiations to secure the release of three Israeli soldiers and a retired army colonel were being undertaken by Germany and other mediators he did not name.

``I rule out a breakthrough before the Israeli elections because the issue is complicated and the gap is wide,'' Kassem said.

The Iranian-backed Hezbollah, which led the war against Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon, captured three Israeli soldiers in an ambush near the border in October. Later that month, the group announced it had lured a reserve army colonel whom they described as an intelligence agent into Beirut and captured him.

Hezbollah has offered to trade the four for an unspecified number of Lebanese and Arab prisoners held by Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak's government has said contacts were under way to seek the release of the four, whose fate and whereabouts have not been disclosed by Hezbollah.

Kassem said his group has relayed its demands for the release of Lebanese, Arab and Palestinian prisoners as well as determining the fate of four missing Iranians as conditions for freedom for the four Israelis.

``The Israeli response was insufficient and fell short of our demands,'' he said. ``Israel must consider our conditions seriously... because we may further escalate and try to capture more (Israeli soldiers).''

Israel is holding 13 Lebanese, including two guerrilla leaders. Hezbollah also wants the bodies of dead guerrillas returned as part of a swap. In addition, Palestinian and Arab groups have given Hezbollah lists of more than 1,500 prisoners they want released in any swap.

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Swap

CAS2247-----
u i BC-Lebanon-Israel 01-28 0620
cai intjw nat 222 08 brt jer
^BC-Lebanon-Israel<
^Hezbollah warns it will capture more Israelis if no prisoner swap<
^AP Photo BEI102
^By SAM F. GHATTAS=
^Associated Press Writer=

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ Hezbollah on Sunday warned Israel that its guerrillas were ready to seize more Israelis _ in addition to the four they captured last year _ in order to step up pressure on the Jewish state to trade them for Arab prisoners.

In a speech Sunday, Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah repeated his group's commitment to the families of Lebanese, Arab, Palestinian and Iranian prisoners to get their loved ones home in return for the Israelis.

``I say to (Israeli Prime Minister Ehud) Barak, if you are rejecting our righteous and just demands and you want to convince us that your soldiers who are in our hands are not enough to achieve our demands ... and that we have to work anew to capture more of your soldiers and officers ... we are ready for that and we will,'' Nasrallah said.

The Shiite Muslim militant group captured three Israeli soldiers in an ambush near the border in southern Lebanon in October. Later that month the group announced it had lured an Israeli businessman, a reserve army colonel whom they described as an intelligence agent, into Beirut and captured him.

The group has offered to trade the four for Lebanese and Arab prisoners held by Israel.

Barak's government has said contacts were under way to seek the release of the four, whose fate and whereabouts have not been disclosed by Hezbollah since their capture.

Nasrallah said Barak could try to make an offer in his remaining days before the Israeli leader faces a Feb. 6 election.

``I believe the matter is going to receive special attention during the remaining days. There is an attempt to achieve something,'' Nasrallah said at a conference on Jerusalem held in Beirut.

Hezbollah has not said exactly how many prisoners it wants in return for the four Israelis.

Israel is holding 13 Lebanese, including two guerrilla leaders. Hezbollah also wants the bodies of dead guerrillas returned as part of a swap.

Iran, Hezbollah's mentor, also says three Iranian diplomats and their driver, kidnapped by pro-Israeli Lebanese Christian militiamen in 1982 during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, are held by Israel, a claim Israel denies. In addition, Palestinian and Arab groups have given Hezbollah lists of more than 1,500 prisoners they want released in any swap.

Nasrallah's threat came as Israel on Sunday released a Hezbollah guerrilla after he completed a 10-year prison sentence, the guerrilla group said. Mohammed Ali Bdeir, 28, crossed into Lebanon at Naqoura, 10 years after he attacked an Israeli army patrol at the same border town in southern Lebanon. He is the second prisoner to be released this month after serving his sentence.

Sunday's events occurred against the backdrop of renewed tension on the Lebanese-Israeli border after two radical Palestinian guerrillas were killed by Israeli tank fire Friday.

Though the Lebanese government opposes Palestinian guerrillas using southern Lebanon to attack northern Israel, it has refused to send its army to the border after Israel's May withdrawal from southern Lebanon, saying it does not want its troops to serve as Israel's border guards.

Prime Minister Rafik Hariri repeated the Lebanese position Sunday, saying the government will not allow Palestinian guerrillas to continue using south Lebanon as a power base for attacking Israel, thus inviting harsh retaliation. Palestinians who want to fight Israel can do so by joining the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Hariri said in a statement.

^sfg-hd-ts<

AP-LD-01-28-01 1927GMT<

Swap

CAZ1234------
u i BC-Lebanon-Israel 12-13 0677
cai intjw nat 222 08 jer frug brt
^BC-Lebanon-Israel<
^Report says captured Israeli soldiers alive, outlines two-stage swap
^By SAM F. GHATTAS=
^Associated Press Writer=

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ Three Israeli soldiers seized by Hezbollah guerrillas near the border in southern Lebanon are alive after undergoing surgery to treat wounds sustained during their capture, a newspaper owned by Lebanon's prime minister said Wednesday.

Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's Al-Mustaqbal said it had obtained ``special information'' from sources involved in negotiations to swap the three for Lebanese prisoners held in Israel. The negotiations are being brokered by Germany, which had in the past negotiated prisoner exchanges between Israel and the pro-Iranian Lebanese guerrillas.

Al-Mustaqbal's report is the first about the soldiers' condition since their capture in early October. Hezbollah has confirmed that German-brokered negotiations were underway on a swap but has refused to discuss any details. Israeli officials said Tuesday that contacts were underway but a deal appeared far off.

The guerrilla group and Lebanese government officials say that only guerrilla chief Sheik Hassan Nasrallah can speak on the issue. Hezbollah refuses to release any information about the condition of the soldiers, saying Israel must make a gesture in return for information about its men.

The three were captured Oct. 7 in a Hezbollah bomb and gun ambush in the disputed Chebaa Farms area, where the borders of Lebanon, Syria and Israel meet. Israeli officials have said then that the soldiers were apparently wounded in the ambush. A week later, Hezbollah said an Israeli businessman in Europe, an army reserve colonel who the guerrillas say works for Israeli intelligence, was lured to Beirut and captured.

Al-Mustaqbal, in a front-page report Wednesday, said the three Israeli soldiers were wounded in the Chebaa ambush and underwent surgery.

``They are alive despite the difficulty in their health condition because of injuries sustained during their capture,'' the report quoted the sources as saying.

Al-Mustaqbal said that a German mediator, operating with the knowledge of Lebanese government security agencies, has reached a draft agreement under which the exchange will take place in two stages.

Under the proposed deal, Israel would release 14 Lebanese prisoners, including guerrilla leaders Sheik Abdul-Karim Obeid and Mustafa Dirani _ kidnapped in 1989 and 1994 respectively _ and Samir Qontar, the longest-held Lebanese prisoner in Israel. Qontar is serving a life sentence after a 1979 guerrilla attack in northern Israel.

Israel, for the first time, hinted on Tuesday that Obeid and Dirani may go free in the swap.

``It's clear to us that we would have to pay in a swap,'' said Israel's Deputy Defense Minister Ephraim Sneh. Obeid and Mustafa Dirani ``are prominent components of the payment,'' he added.

Also Tuesday, Israel's Supreme Court refused to free Obeid and Dirani after officials said Israel was willing to exchange them for its captured soldiers.

In the second stage of the proposed swap, the Israeli businessman held by Hezbollah would be exchanged for the remaining Lebanese prisoners.

Al-Mustaqbal said the first stage would take place soon, but the second would come at a later date.

Lebanese media has been referring to 19 people held in Israeli prisons. But The Followup Committee for the Support of the Lebanese Detainees in Israel has named 15 prisoners and said ``there are four other detainees whose whereabouts are unknown.''

Mohammed Safa, head of the committee, told The Associated Press Wednesday that the International Committee of the Red Cross had provided documents showing that the four in question had been freed by Israel. But he said the four did not return to Lebanon.

Sources privately say that the four may have opted to stay in Israel or quietly traveled abroad. They added that there are four other Lebanese held in Israel on drug-trafficking charges.

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Swap

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^Hezbollah: talks under way for German-mediated prisoner swap with Israel<
^Eds: UPDATES with Israeli foreign minister to meet German minister, comment from Israel. TRIMS.<
^By SAM F. GHATTAS=
^Associated Press Writer=

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ Negotiations for a swap of Arab and Israeli prisoners are under way between the militant Hezbollah group and Israel through German mediation, a senior guerrilla official said Monday.

The comments by Hussein Khalil, political adviser to Hezbollah Secretary-General Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, came amid media reports in Beirut that the negotiations have been progressing toward an agreement and hints from Israel that discussions may bear fruit.

Hezbollah guerrillas captured three Israeli soldiers in a bomb and gun ambush at a disputed strip of land near the Israeli border in southern Lebanon on Oct. 7. The Iranian-backed guerrillas offered to trade the three and an Israeli businessman, a reserve colonel they lured to Beirut and also captured in October, for prisoners held in Israel.

Israel holds 15 Lebanese in its jails, including two guerrilla leaders, according to a committee following up the case of Lebanese prisoners. Hezbollah has not made it clear whether it wants Palestinian prisoners freed as part of a deal.

``We took Israeli soldiers prisoner to speed up the release of the Lebanese prisoners,'' Khalil told reporters. ``The Israelis recently became serious about this subject and asked the Germans to get involved. Now there are ongoing discussions.'' He did not elaborate.

Until Monday, the guerrilla group had been silent about the soldiers and the negotiations, saying that only Nasrallah was authorized to speak on the subject and refusing to divulge information about the soldiers' conditions to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

But the newspaper As-Safir, which is considered close to the guerrillas, said German contacts between Israel and Hezbollah have reached ``an advanced phase.'' It reported that a German delegation held talks with Hezbollah security officials in Beirut last week and said an agreement on the details of the swap was expected to be worked out within 10 days.

In Israel, Deputy Defense Minister Ephraim Sneh said his government is working to gain the release of the soldiers.

``I can only say that there are attempts by us on more than one track. We are making every effort, both to obtain information and also to reach a practical possibility of bringing those sons home,'' Sneh said.

Also Monday, the families of the Israeli soldiers met Red Cross representatives at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv and asked them to ensure the safety of their sons.

In Paris, Israeli Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami was expected to meet Monday evening with his German counterpart regarding the prisoners.

Germany has in the past played a pivotal role in prisoner exchanges between Israel and Hezbollah guerrillas. The last German-mediated swap was in 1998, when Israel returned the remains of 40 guerrillas and freed 60 fighters in exchange for the remains of a soldier killed in an ambush in southern Lebanon a year earlier.

Israel's captives include guerrilla leaders Sheik Abdul-Karim Obeid and Mustafa Dirani, who were kidnapped from their homes in Lebanon by Israeli commandos in 1989 and 1994 respectively.

Dirani was taken in an attempt to win the release of Ron Arad, an Israeli air force navigator captured in southern Lebanon in 1986 by Dirani's guerrillas after his plane was shot down during a bombing raid. Arad's whereabouts remain unknown.

Prime Minister Ehud Barak has issued an order extending the administrative detention of Obeid and Dirani by six months. Obeid and Dirani will be at Israel's Supreme Court on Tuesday as the body continues hearing their petition challenging the legality of their detention.

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Swap

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^Hezbollah: talks under way for German-mediated prisoner swap with Israel<

^By SAM F. GHATTAS=

^Associated Press Writer=

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Yoel Avitan, uncle of captured Israeli soldier Adi Avitan, told Israel army radio that military officials had confirmed to the family ``that there is some basis'' to reports that a deal was being negotiated.

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Swap

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^Hezbollah chief: No prisoner swap with Israel without Palestinians' release<
^AP Photo BEI101<
^By HUSSEIN DAKROUB=
^Associated Press Writer=

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ A prisoner swap with Israel is highly unlikely unless it includes the release of Palestinian detainees, the Hezbollah guerrilla group's leader said in a television interview.

Sheik Hassan Nasrallah told the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera satellite TV station late Friday night that he denied his group was linked to the Hezbollah-Palestine organization which has claimed responsibility for attacks on Israeli troops in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "We, in Hezbollah, have no project inside Palestine," he said.

Nasrallah said Israel should release 14 to 16 Lebanese prisoners, 22 to 33 Arabs and the Palestinian detainees in Israel.

"Without the release of Palestinian prisoners, there can be no prisoner swap," he added. He did not specify how many prisoners he wants freed.

Nasrallah said four Iranians, who vanished during Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war, should be included in any prisoner swap. Iran says the four, including two diplomats, are jailed in Israel.

The Iranian-backed Hezbollah, which led the war against Israel's 18-year occupation of southern Lebanon that ended in May last year, captured three Israeli soldiers in an ambush near the border in October. Later that month, it lured a reserve army colonel into Beirut and captured him.

Hezbollah has offered to trade the four Israelis for an unspecified number of Lebanese and Arab prisoners held by Israel. It has rejected international demands to release details about the Israelis.

Israel is holding 13 Lebanese, including two guerrilla leaders. Hezbollah also wants the bodies of dead guerrillas returned as part of a swap. Also, Palestinian and Arab groups have given Hezbollah lists of more than 1,500 prisoners they want released in any swap.

Nasrallah said Germany and other unnamed nations are mediating to arrange a prisoner swap.

He said Hezbollah has rejected mediator demands for access to the captured Israelis "without a humanitarian price," saying the price for news on the Israelis was the release of some prisoners.

He said Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was concerned that the release of Palestinian prisoners might further escalate the eight-month Palestinian uprising.

Nasrallah, a supporter of an intensified Palestinian uprising, denied Israeli charges that Hezbollah was involved in Palestinian attacks against Israeli troops.

"The Palestinians do not need fighters or suicide bombers. They are alone capable of confronting (Israel). They need money and arms," he said.

Nasrallah, who last week said Hezbollah has turned down repeated Washington attempts to establish contact, set two conditions for dialogue with the United States.

"When America halts its support for Israel and when it deals with the Arab-Israeli conflict in a different way, then I have no objection to talking with the Americans," he said.

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Swapping

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^BC-Israel-Lebanese Prisoners, 1st Ld-Writethru
^Israel delays releasing 13 prisoners, will keep the two best known(
^Eds: UPDATES throughout with release delayed(
^By JACK KATZENELL=
^Associated Press Writer=

JERUSALEM (AP) _ Israel on Sunday delayed the promised release of 13 Lebanese prisoners held as bargaining chips for the return of a missing Israeli airman and said it will continue to hold two more prominent Lebanese whom it kidnapped for the same purpose.

The 13 were to have been freed Monday, in response to last week's Supreme Court ruling that the state had no right to detain foreigners who did not pose a threat to Israeli security.

However, prison spokeswoman Orit Messer-Harel said in a statement late Sunday that the prison release would not take place as planned, pending a Supreme Court petition against the release from the airman's family. The Supreme Court was scheduled to hear the petition Monday morning at 9 a.m. (0600 gmt).

Some of the 13 have been detained for over a decade, after being kidnapped and held as pawns in efforts to secure the release of navigator Ron Arad, who was captured alive in Lebanon in 1986.

Arad's family has accused Israel of abandoning efforts to rescue him by agreeing to the prisoner release. Messer-Harel said that no release would take place until the after the hearing.

Arad has not been seen alive in more than a decade.

In any event, the government says it will not free the two most prominent Lebanese prisoners, both of them associated with guerrilla groups.

Justice Ministry spokesman Ido Baum said Sunday the government will ask for the extension of the ``administrative detention'' - meaning imprisonment without trial - of Mustafa Dirani, a former guerrilla leader and Sheik Abdel Karim Obeid, considered by Israel to be the spiritual leader of the Hezbollah guerrillas fighting Israeli forces in south Lebanon.

Zvi Rish, the lawyer who petitioned the Supreme Court on behalf of the prisoners, said he would return to court to force the army to release Dirani, who was kidnapped in 1986, and Sheik Obeid, who was abducted from south Lebanon in 1994.

Dirani was the security chief of the Amal guerrilla group, also battling Israel in south Lebanon.

Administrative detention must be approved by a judge and reviewed every six months. Baum said in a news release that keeping Dirani and Obeid in jail would not violate the Supreme Court ruling nor international law, because they are ``enemies - in particular enemy leaders - at a time when Hezbollah and other groups in Lebanon are still fighting against Israel.''

Hezbollah is fighting to oust Israeli forces from the strip of land in south Lebanon which they have occupied for 18 years to protect Israel's northern border from guerrilla attacks. Israel promises to withdraw from Lebanon by July.

The 13 other prisoners were originally scheduled to have crossed the Lebanese-Israeli border Monday morning.

The Supreme Court on Monday will also hear a petition from 15 Lebanese prisoners who are being held at Khiam prison in south Lebanon. The Israeli army maintains that the prison is the responsibility of an Israeli-backed Lebanese militia, the South Lebanese Army.

The prisoners' Israeli lawyers, however, argue that because Israel is the occupying power in the area, it is responsible for the prisoners' being held without trial.
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Swapping

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^BC-Israel-Lebanon, 1st Ld-Writethru<
^Israeli defense minister willing to discuss release of Lebanese guerrilla<
^Eds: RECASTS lead, UPDATES with reward to be offered for news of missing airman, 3rd graf, CORRECTS `fourth' sted `fifth' in 5th graf <
^By JACK KATZENELL=
^Associated Press Writer=

JERUSALEM (AP) _ +Israel+ will consider releasing a Lebanese guerrilla leader if this helps bring home four kidnapped Israelis, Defence Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said in an interview published Friday.

The guerrilla, Mustafa Dirani, was abducted by Israeli troops in 1994. He and Sheik Abdel Karim Obeid, a spiritual leader of the Lebanese Hezbollah guerrilla group, who was seized by the Israelis in 1989, were originally held as bargaining chips for the return of the Israeli air force navigator Ron Arad.

Arad was shot down and captured in +Lebanon+ in 1986 but no reliable information about his fate has been received for many years. The Israeli government intends to offer a dlrs. 10 million reward for significant information about Arad's condition and where he is being held, Channel 1 television reported Friday.

Three of the Israelis, all soldiers, were kidnapped by Hezbollah in October, in a cross-border raid. The other, a civilian who is also an officer in the reserves, was reportedly lured to +Lebanon+ two weeks later.

In an interview with the newspaper Yediot Ahronot, Ben-Eliezer implied that a fourth Israeli soldier, who has been missing for more than a year, may also be in the hands of the Lebanese guerrillas.

"I will stop at nothing and am willing to pay almost any price to bring them home," Ben-Eliezer said. "I am also willing to discuss anything, such as returning Dirani, as long I have some grounds for believing that the boys are alive."

The Hezbollah leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, has said he will insist that +Israel+ release Palestinian prisoners as well as Dirani, Obeid and any other Lebanese being held in +Israel+.

Germany and other European countries have tried to mediate an exchange of prisoners between +Israel+ and Hezbollah, but the negotiations never really got started. Israeli officials have said Hezbollah never provided proof that the soldiers are alive. Ben-Eliezer said he will insist on solid evidence, such as a videotape.

Turning to +Israel+'s relations with the Palestinians, Ben-Eliezer disclosed that he demanded the evacuation of all the Jewish settlers from the West Bank city of Hebron in 1994, after a settler killed 29 Palestinian worshippers at the Tomb of the Patriarchs.

Ben-Eliezer was housing minister in the government of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin when the settler, Baruch Goldstein, mowed down the worshippers with an automatic rifle, before being beaten to death by survivors.

About 450 settlers live in Hebron, a town of 130,000 Palestinians. Relations between the two communities are tense and large numbers of Israeli soldiers and police are stationed permanently in the city to protect the settlers.

There have been repeated demands by the Israeli dovish left for moving the settlers from Hebron, but the Israeli right-wing supports them and refuses to countenance their evacuation.

Ben-Eliezer told Yediot that after the Goldstein massacre, he proposed that they be evacuated to the nearby Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba.

"I demanded (at the time) that the entire Jewish settlement be evacuated from Hebron," said Ben-Eliezer, who as defense minister has an important say in the fate of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon objects to moving the Hebron settlers.

Hebron has been one of the flash-points of violence during the past six months of fighting between +Israel+ and the Palestinians. In the past two weeks, settlers burned Palestinian-owned shops and cars in retaliation for the killing of a 10 month-old baby girl by Palestinian gunmen.

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April 6, 2001

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^BC-Lebanon-Swap

^Hezbollah, Israeli-backed militia to swap bodies<

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ The Muslim fundamentalist Hezbollah announced that it will return the bodies of two Israeli-backed militiamen on Friday in exchange for the bodies of two of its fighters killed in south Lebanon.

A similar statement was made Thursday by the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army militia.

The statements said the swap would be carried out under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross at 9 a.m. (0700 gmt) Friday at the Bater-Jezzine crossing, which links an Israeli-occupied zone in south Lebanon with the rest of the country.

The Iranian-backed Hezbollah, or Party of God, last August was involved in a prisoner swap with Israel.

It returned the remains of two Israeli soldiers and 17 captured militiamen and took back 45 Hezbollah fighters and the remains of more than 120 guerrillas killed in south Lebanon.

Hezbollah says about 112 prisoners, including 40 guerrillas, remain in the Khiam prison in the Israeli zone.

Hezbollah is the main guerrilla group fighting Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon.

The Jewish state has maintained a so-called ``security zone'' in southern Lebanon since 1985 to protect against guerrilla attacks on its northern towns. The zone is patrolled by about 2,000 Israeli soldiers and the 2,500-member South Lebanon Army, which is armed, funded and trained by Israel.

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^BC-Lebanon-Israel, 1st Ld-Writethru<

^Snags Delay Prisoner Swap Between Hezbollah and Israel<
^Eds: UPDATES with German security team arrives, Lebanese TV shows guerrilla bodies exhumed. CORRECTS date Arad shot down<
^By RODEINA KENAAN=
^Associated Press Writer=

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ Last-minute snags Wednesday delayed a planned swap of some 200 Shiite Muslim prisoners held by Israel for the remains of two Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon. But the exchange is still imminent, government sources said.

They said a team of six senior German security officials, including a coroner and a forensic expert with Israeli army dental charts and other records on the missing men, arrived in Beirut at mid-afternoon to examine the remains.

Lebanese authorities banned newsmen and photographers from approaching the Germans or filming their arrival at Beirut airport aboard a chartered jetliner.

The team arrived as German mediator Bernd Schmidbauer was in Damascus, capital of neighboring Syria, discussing the exchange with leaders of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, or Party of God, as well as Syrian and Lebanese officials, the sources said.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the swap will probably take place late Wednesday or Thursday, if Schmidbauer, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's intelligence adviser, secures a final agreement.

In Israel, Foreign Minister David Levy said he was more hopeful than in the past that the exchange will take place.

``There are things that until the last moment _ and we have learned this from past experience _ can suddenly change, but there's certainly room for more optimism,'' he said on Israeli Army Radio.

Hezbollah, a Shiite movement fighting to drive Israel out of the border zone it occupies in south Lebanon, has long admitted holding the remains of the two Israelis, Rahamim Alsheikh and American-born Yosef Fink.

It has pledged to hand them over in exchange for some 200 prisoners held at the Khiam detention center in Israel's so-called ``security zone'' in south Lebanon, as well as two Shiite leaders held in Israel, the sources reported.

Under the deal, Israel would also repatriate the remains of several guerrillas killed in the security zone. They are buried in a cemetery on the western tip of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights where the Israeli and Lebanese borders meet.

Beirut's Future Television, owned by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, broadcast a film showing Israelis exhuming some 14 guerrilla bodies from Gadot cemetery in northern Israel and taking them away in wooden caskets. The station did not say how it obtained the footage.

Alsheikh and Fink were wounded and captured by Hezbollah in a 1986 ambush in south Lebanon and reportedly died in captivity.

The Lebanese sources said Israel's insistence on including a third missing Israeli in the deal was behind Wednesday's snag.

Israel said it would not free Shiite leaders Sheik Abdel-Karim Obeid and Mustafa Dirani, whose release is sought by Hezbollah, unless it obtains firm word on the fate of Capt. Ron Arad, an air force navigator.

Arad's F-4 Phantom was shot down over south Lebanon on Oct. 17, 1986. Israel contends Arad is held by Iran, Hezbollah's patron.

Dirani and Obeid are held by Israel in connection with the missing Israelis. They were abducted by commando raids on their homes in Lebanon _ Obeid, a Hezbollah cleric, in 1989, and Dirani in 1994.

Hezbollah's deputy secretary-general, Sheik Naim Qassem, said last week that his group's previous attempts to arrange a swap failed because Israel had linked the fate of Lebanese prisoners to that of Arad.

Syria is the dominant power in Lebanon, where it has deployed 40,000 troops, ostensibly as peacekeepers to prevent the 1975-1990 civil war erupting again.

It wields considerable influence with Hezbollah and has been supporting the secret negotiations Schmidbauer began six months ago.

In addition to Arad, Fink and Alsheikh, three other Israeli servicemen are missing in Lebanon. Zecharia Baumel, Zvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz disappeared June 11, 1982, the fifth day of Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

There is no firm word on their whereabouts, but Israeli officials believe they are dead.

The saga of the missing soldiers has caused years of anguish for their families in Israel.

``We want it to come to some sort of end and get on with our lives,'' Fink's mother, Hadassah, said Wednesday. ``We want our son's body brought here to be buried instead of remaining outside, which is very unsettling.''
^RK-FN-EB<

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^BC-Lebanon-Israel, 4th Ld-Writethru<

^Germans Confirm Identity of Israeli Soldiers' Remains In Swap<
^Eds: COMBINES pvs<
^By RODEINA KENAAN=
^Associated Press Writer=

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ German security officials positively identified the skeletons of two Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon and agreement was reached on a list of Hezbollah prisoners to be exchanged for the remains, government sources reported.

They said German mediator Bernd Schmidbauer was due to travel from Damascus, capital of neighboring Syria, to Beirut on Friday to set the operation in motion in cooperation with Lebanon's Interior Minister, Michel Murr.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a German forensic expert and a coroner made the identification after the remains of privates Rahamim Alsheikh and American-born Yosef Fink were exhumed from a secret burial site some distance from Beirut.

The Germans were part of a six-man team of security officials that flew to Beirut Wednesday with Israeli army dental charts and other records on the two missing soldiers.

Schmidbauer, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's intelligence adviser, was notified by telephone of the positive identification that set the stage for the much-delayed exchange, the sources added.

They said Schmidbauer reported that he had obtained the agreement of Israel and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, or Party of God, on the number and names of Shiite Muslim prisoners to be released for the remains of Alsheikh and Fink. But no specifics were divulged.

The prisoners are to be handed to Swiss delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross at crossings between the Israel-occupied zone and U.N.-policed areas of south Lebanon, the sources said.

Several coffins containing the remains of guerrillas killed in south Lebanon over the past 10 years have been transported from a cemetery in the Upper Galilee panhandle in northern Israel to the Hamra crossing on the enclave's western edge for the swap, the sources added.

Schmidbauer has been in Damascus negotiating final details of the exchange with Hezbollah representatives as well as Lebanese and Syrian officials.

As the main power-broker in Lebanon with considerable influence on the Shiite Hezbollah, Syria's support has been crucial for Schmidbauer's mission.

Syria has some 40,000 troops deployed on Lebanese soil, ostensibly as peacekeepers preventing the 1975-90 civil war flaring again.

Hezbollah, which is fighting to drive Israel out of the occupied strip in south Lebanon, captured Alsheikh and Fink in an ambush in 1986. They died in captivity.

Their swap for the remains of slain guerrillas and Shiite prisoners was originally set for noon (0900 GMT) Wednesday. It was later rescheduled for Thursday because of disagreement between Israel and Hezbollah over the number of Lebanese prisoners to be freed.

Hezbollah says it wants Israel to hand back the remains of some 100 fighters killed in fighting in south Lebanon over the last decade in addition to the 200 prisoners, most of whom are held in the village of Khiam in the Israeli-occupied enclave.

A key hurdle that had delayed the swap was Israel's insistence that Hezbollah provide firm word on the fate of another missing Israeli, air force navigator Capt. Ron Arad, in exchange for the release of two Shiite leaders abducted by Israeli commandos in recent years.

The Lebanese sources said Arad and the two leaders, Sheik Abdul-Karim Obeid and Mustafa Dirani, have been excluded from the deal to prevent further delays.

Arad's F-4 Phantom was shot down over south Lebanon on Oct. 17, 1986. Israel contends he is held by Iran, Hezbollah's patron.

Obeid was kidnapped from his south Lebanon home by Israeli commandos in 1989, Dirani from the Bekaa Valley in a similar operation in 1994. Both were apparently abducted in connection with Israeli efforts to determine the fate of missing servicemen.

In addition to Arad, Fink and Alsheikh, three other Israeli servicemen, Zacharia Baumel, Zvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz, disappeared June 11, 1982, the fifth day of Israel's invasion of Lebanon. Israeli officials believe they are dead.
^RK-FN-EB<

181900 jul 96

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^BC-Lebanon-Israel<

^Hezbollah, Israel Ready to Swap Remains of Soldiers and Guerrilas<

^By RODEINA KENAAN=
^Associated Press Writer=

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ Barring new hitches, Israel and Hezbollah will swap Friday the remains of dead soldiers and guerrillas under a much-delayed agreement that would ultimately secure the release of scores of Shiite Muslim prisoners.

Foreign Minister Faris Bweiz said in a newspaper interview published Friday that he expected implementation of the German-mediated agreement to start ''in the next few hours.''

He was interviewed by the conservative newspaper Al-Liwa after government sources disclosed that a six-man German team had positively identified the remains of two Israeli soldiers clearing the way for the swap to begin Friday.

The team, which included a forensic expert and a coroner, made the identification on the basis of dental charts and other records they had obtained from Israel. The bodies of privates Rahamim Alsheikh and American-born Yosef Fink were exhumed from a secret burial site some distance from Beirut on Thursday.

German mediator Bernd Schmidbauer was due in Beirut Friday to set the exchange operation in motion with Lebanese Interior Minister Michel Murr.

He was traveling from Damascus, the capital of Syria, Lebanon's main power broker and a close ally of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah.

Schmidbauer, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's top intelligence adviser, spent the last week in Damascus putting the final touches on the agreement which he had negotiated in three months of secret missions that involved Hezbollah, Israel, Lebanon and Syria.

In a development apparently unrelated to the swap agreement, but could help improve the atmosphere, Israel released Thursday a Lebanese newsman it had held for more than a month of suspicion of links to Hezbollah, security sources said.

Ali Dhiya, 44, a freelance reporter for the French news agency, Agence France Presse, was detained June 13.

Bweiz, the Lebanese foreign minister, said he did not foresee any problems that would block the swap, postponed three times this week amid disputes over numbers and efforts by each side to improve the conditions.

He said in the first stage, the Israelis and Hezbollah would trade ''bodies of bodies.''

The release of live Lebanese prisoners would follow in stages, he said. ''The process should be over in a matter of days.''

He said in all 135 live Lebanese prisoners would be freed, but did not give a number of dead guerrillas to be exchanged for the remains of the two Israeli soldiers, who were captured in south Lebanon in 1986 and later died in captivity.

Hezbollah sources earlier put the number of guerrillas killed in fighting with Israeli troops over the past 10 years at 200. Most of them were buried in a cemetery in the Upper Galilee panhandle in northern Israel.

Several coffins containing guerrilla remains were transported Thursday from the cemetery to the Hamra crossing on the western edge of a border enclave Israel occupies in south Lebanon.

Although Bweiz said all Lebanese prisoners held by Israel would be freed, government sources said they did not expect the swap to include Shiite leaders Sheikh Abdul-Karim Obeid and Mustafa Dirani.

Israel has demanded firm word on the fate of another missing Israeli, air force navigator Capt. Ron Arad, in exchange for the release of Obeid and Dirani.

Arad's F-4 Phantom was shot down over south Lebanon on Oct. 17, 1986. Israel contends he is held by Iran, Hezbollah's patron.

Obeid was kidnapped from his south Lebanon home by Israeli commandos in 1989, Dirani from the Bekaa Valley in a similar operation in 1994. Both were apparently abducted in connection with Israeli efforts to determine the fate of missing servicemen.

In addition to Arad, Fink and Alsheikh, three other Israeli servicemen, Zacharia Baumel, Zvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz, disappeared June 11, 1982, the fifth day of Israel's invasion of Lebanon. Israeli officials believe they are dead.
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^Lebanon-Israel 3rd Ld-Writethru<

^Hezbollah, Israel to Start Prisoner Swap Sunday<
^Eds: AMs. UPDATES with interior minister confirms swap date<
^By RODEINA KENAAN=
^Associated Press Writer=

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ Lebanon's interior minister said Friday an oft-delayed German-mediated bodies-and-prisoner exchange between Hezbollah and Israel is expected to take place on Sunday.

''The mediation efforts are taking place in a positive atmosphere. The results will emerge within 48 hours and the mission is expected to be crowned with success,'' Michel Murr told reporters after meeting with Bernd Schmidbauer, Chancellor Helmur Kohl's intelligence adviser.

Schmidbauer later set Sunday as the deadline for the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, or Party of God, to hand over the remains of two Israeli soldiers for the remains of Shiite Muslim prisoners held by Israel along with the remains of guerrillas killed in clashes, government sources said. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

Schmidbauer, who has negotiated the exchange over three months of secret talks, arrived from Damascus for the 45-minute meeting with Murr.

He later left aboard a German government jet for the Syrian capital accompanied by two aides and a six-man German security team.

Murr said the prisoner exchange will take place under Lebanese government supervision.

Government sources said Schmidbauer was scheduled to land at Beirut Airport at 8 a.m. (0500 GMT) on Sunday to take custody of the remains of the two Israelis at 10 a.m. (0700 GMT) and then fly to Israel.

Simultaneously, Israel will free more than 100 Shiite prisoners through gateways on the boundary of the border enclave it occupies in south Lebanon.

Remains of several Hezbollah guerrillas killed in attacks in the enclave, which Israel calls a ''security zone,'' will be repatriated the same way. They have been readied in coffins at the Israeli border town of Rosh Haniqra.

The sources did not disclose the exact number of prisoners to be freed or remains to be handed over. But earlier Friday, the conservative Al-Liwa daily quoted Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bweiz as saying 135 Lebanese will be freed.

Hezbollah says some 100 guerrillas have been killed in south Lebanon over the last 10 years. Most of them were buried in a cemetery in northern Israel.

Bweiz had expected the swap to start Friday with a first stage of ''bodies for bodies.'' There was no explanation for the delay, the fourth this week amid disputes over numbers and efforts by both sides to improve the conditions.

On Thursday, the German team positively identified the remains of the Israeli soldiers, who were captured in south Lebanon in 1986 and later died in captivity.

The team, which included a forensic expert and a coroner, made the identification on the basis of dental charts and other records provided by Israel.

The bodies of privates Rahamim Alsheikh and American-born Yosef Fink were exhumed from a secret burial site some distance from Beirut on Thursday.

In a development apparently unrelated to the exchange, but which could help improve the political climate, Israel Thursday released a Lebanese newsman it had held for more than a month on suspicion of links with the fundamentalist Hezbollah.

Ali Dhiya, 44, a freelance reporter for the French news agency, Agence France Presse, was detained June 13.

Although Bweiz said all Lebanese prisoners held by Israel would be freed, government sources said they did not expect the swap to include Shiite leaders Sheikh Abdul-Karim Obeid and Mustafa Dirani.

Obeid was kidnapped from his south Lebanon home by Israeli commandos in 1989, Dirani from the Bekaa Valley in a similar operation in 1994. Both were apparently abducted in connection with Israeli efforts to determine the fate of missing servicemen.

Israel has demanded firm word on the fate of another missing serviceman, air force navigator Capt. Ron Arad, in exchange for the release of Obeid and Dirani.

Arad's F-4 Phantom was shot down over south Lebanon on Oct. 17, 1986. Israel contends he is held by Iran, Hezbollah's patron.

In addition to Arad, Fink and Alsheikh, three other Israeli servicemen, Zacharia Baumel, Zvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz, are missing. They disappeared June 11, 1982, the fifth day of Israel's invasion of Lebanon. Israeli officials believe they are dead.

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^BC-Lebanon-Israel, 3rd Ld-Writethru<
^German Mediator, Hezbollah Announce Final Prisoner Swap Deal<
^Eds: UPDATES with more Nasrallah quotes in 6th-8th grafs. TRIMS<
^By RODEINA KENAAN=
^Associated Press Writer=

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ A German mediator and Hezbollah's leader said Saturday they have reached a final agreement for swapping the bodies of two Israeli soldiers for scores of Shiite Muslim prisoners and guerrilla remains held by Israel.

Bernd Schmidbauer, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's intelligence adviser, announced in Damascus, the Syrian capital, that the exchange will take place Sunday.

In Lebanon, Hezbollah's leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, said the Iranian-backed fundamentalist group has endorsed the German-brokered deal.

Nasrallah made the announcement on Hezbollah's Al-Manar Television and Al-Noor radio shortly after returning from Damascus.

''We will execute this agreement tomorrow, Sunday,'' he said, noting that the International Committee of the Red Cross will supervise the exchange.

Nasrallah hailed the deal as ''an advanced step on the road to resolving the issue'' of Lebanese held by Israel.

''The agreement provides for the handover of all the bodies and remains of (Shiite) prisoners. It also provides for the release of a specific number of prisoners from Khiam jail,'' he said.

Nasrallah noted that priority will be given to women and wounded and sick men held at the detention camp in Israel's self-proclaimed ''security zone'' in the south.

He said the German mediation was supported by Iran and Syria.

Iran is Hezbollah's mentor and bankroller. Syria, the main power in Lebanon with 40,000 troops deployed, is an ally of Iran.

Nasrallah and Schmidbauer declined to say how many prisoners and guerrilla remains would sent back. But Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bweiz said this week that 135 Lebanese will be freed.

Hezbollah has mentioned 100 guerrillas killed in fighting with Israeli troops in south Lebanon over the past 10 years.

The Sunday deadline was set by Schmidbauer after a meeting in Beirut Friday with Interior Minister Michel Murr.

Unresolved disputes over the numbers and names of those to be repatriated by Israel had threatened to delay the exchange, already postponed four times this week.

At a news conference in Damascus, Schmidbauer described the three months of secret negotiations that led to the deal as ''very difficult.''

He said his ''full agreement'' with Hezbollah was ''very good and a very important step on the road to further negotiations in this direction.''

His remarks indicated he planned to pursue efforts to determine the fate of four more missing Israeli soldiers.

Schmidbauer thanked Syria and Iran for helping make his mission a success.

Efforts to arrange the swap picked up pace this week, when a six-man German team identified the remains of Israeli soldiers Rahamim Alsheikh and American-born Yosef Fink. The men had been seized by Hezbollah guerrillas in 1986 and died in captivity.

Their bodies were exhumed Thursday from a secret burial place a distance from Beirut. The German team identified the remains from dental charts and other records provided by Israel.

Hezbollah indicated before the agreement was sealed that the exchange would not include Sheikh Abdul-Karim Obeid and Mustafa Dirani, the most prominent Shiite officials held by Israel.

Obeid was kidnapped from his south Lebanon home by Israeli commandos in 1989, Dirani from the Bekaa Valley in a similar operation in 1994. Both were apparently abducted in connection with Israeli efforts to determine the fate of missing servicemen.

The four Israelis who remain unaccounted for are air force navigator Capt. Ron Arad, whose F-4 Phantom was shot down over south Lebanon on Oct. 17, 1986, and three soldiers who disappeared in fighting June 1982, _ Zacharia Baumel, Zvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz.

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^URGENT<
^Germany Oversees Hezbollah-Israeli Swap Of Prisoners, Bodies<
^Eds: UPDATES with Israeli coffins flown out of Lebanon; fresh details throughout<
^By RODEINA KENAAN=
^Associated Press Writer=

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ German mediators on Sunday flew out the remains of two Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon, setting in motion the biggest swap of bodies and prisoners between Israel and Hezbollah in 14 years.

Earlier on Sunday, the Germans, headed by Chancellor Helmut Kohl's top intelligence adviser Bernd Schmidbauer, flew into the Lebanese capital Beirut from neighboring Syria. They arrived shortly after a German air force plane landed at Beirut airport from Hanover.

Almost simultaneously, the International Committee of the Red Cross dispatched a bus and 18 six-wheel trucks to collect 45 Hezbollah prisoners and at least 141 guerrilla bodies from an Israeli-held south Lebanon enclave, government sources in Beirut said.

Schmidbauer boarded the two-engine, German air force plane with two steel coffins containing the exhumed remains of Israeli soldiers Rahamim Alsheikh and American-born Yosef Fink.

The two were captured in an ambush by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas in the Israeli-held south Lebanon enclave in 1986 and later died in captivity.

The german air force plane took off at 9:30 a.m. (0630 GMT) for Larnaca, Cyprus, en route for an air force base in central Israel.

''Due to international regulations we are going to Larnaca and then Israel,'' the plane's captain Stefan Kuhn told reporters.

^MORE<

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^BC-Lebanon-Israel, 4th Ld-Writethru<

^Germany Oversees Hezbollah-Israeli Swap Of Prisoners, Bodies<
^Eds: UPDATES with reports of south Lebanon blasts; minor edit<
^AP Photos BEI101-104<
^By RODEINA KENAAN=
^Associated Press Writer=

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ German mediators on Sunday repatriated the remains of two Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon, setting in motion the biggest swap of bodies and prisoners between Israel and Hezbollah in 14 years.

The remains of privates Rahamim Alsheikh and American-born Yosef Fink, who died after their capture by Hezbollah guerrillas in a 1986 south Lebanon ambush, arrived at Israel's Ben-Gurion airport.

The two coffins, draped in Israeli flags, were carried off the plane as a military rabbi read a prayer and an Israeli honor guard stood at attention.

They were flown out from Beirut airport on a green German air force plane accompanied by Chancellor Helmut Kohl's top intelligence adviser, Bernd Schmidbauer, who mediated the deal over three months of secret negotiations.

Almost simultaneously, the International Committee of the Red Cross dispatched a bus and 18 six-wheel trucks to collect 45 Hezbollah prisoners and at least 141 guerrilla bodies from an Israeli-occupied south Lebanon border enclave.

But as the convoy and an estimated 300 relatives waited for the freed prisoners at the enclave's Kfar Tibnit crossing, two blasts were heard in the distance from the direction of the Crusaders-built Beaufort Castle, reporters on the scene said.

They quoted anonymous security sources as saying Israeli troops had discovered and harmlessly detonated two roadside bombs near the hilltop fortress overlooking the Kfar Tibnit gateway.

Hezbollah guerrillas often use roadside bombs to ambush Israeli patrols and those of their allied South Lebanon Army militia, but the sources were quoted as saying the explosive charges were probably planted before the swap deal was concluded.

It is Israel's largest prisoners swap with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah since the Jewish state's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, when the Shiite Muslim guerrilla group was formed.

It could give impetus to a possible agreement between Lebanon and Israel's Likud-led government, which has expressed interest in a limited deal to stop hostilities in south Lebanon, the last active Arab-Israeli warfront.

The previous government of prime minister Shimon Peres had insisted that any deal on Lebanon would have to be part of a larger package with Syria, the de facto power broker in Lebanon.

But Israel's new Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, while ruling out a return of the Golan Heights in exchange for peace with Syria, has indicated he would consider a partial deal under which Israel would leave the south Lebanon enclave it has held since 1985.

Alsheikh and Fink's remains were delivered in two steel coffins to ICRC delegates at Hezbollah's command headquarters in south Beirut's Haret Hreik district at 9 a.m. (0600 GMT).

The coffins were then driven to Beirut airport in an ICRC white ambulance and loaded into underpressure containers on the

''This successful end of this episode was brokered in tedious negotiations with the various groups concerned,'' Schmidbauer told reporters before boarding the two-engine, Transall C-160 aircraft with the coffins.

''With the take off of this plane, the swap operation is under way,'' Schmidbauer said through an Arabic-language interpreter.

The plane made a stop in Larnaca, Cyprus, because there are no direct civil aviation corridors between Lebanon and Israel.

In return, Lebanese government sources said the command of the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army militia will free a first batch of 22 Hezbollah prisoners from the Khiam prison in the occupied enclave. They will include three women.

Once they arrive at the Kfar Tibnit crossing, the ICRC delegates would return 17 SLA prisoners released by Hezbollah, or Party of God. The SLA command will then release 23 other Shiite Muslim prisoners from Khiam.

Hezbollah has been fighting to dislodge Israeli forces from the south Lebanon border enclave carved by the Jewish state in 1985 to shield its northern towns from cross-border guerrilla attacks.

Schmidbauer and Hezbollah's leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah have declared that Iran and Syria approved the swap.

Iran is Hezbollah's mentor and bankroller. Syria, Iran's main Arab ally, is Lebanon's undisputed master with 40,000 Syrian troops stationed on Lebanese territory as peacekeepers to prevent the rekindling of the 1975-1990 civil war.

Excluded from the swap were Israeli-held Sheikh Abdul-Karim Obeid and Mustafa Dirani _ both senior Shiite officials abducted by Israeli commandos in 1989 and 1994 respectively.

Both were apparently abducted in connection with Israeli efforts to determine the fate of missing servicemen.

Four Israelis remain unaccounted for in Lebanon. They are air force navigator Capt. Ron Arad, whose F-4 Phantom was shot down over south Lebanon on Oct. 17, 1986, and three soldiers who disappeared in fighting June 1982 and are believed dead.

Israel contends Arad is still alive and in Iranian hands, but Iran denies this.

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^Hezbollah To Search For 3rd Missing Israeli After Prisoner Swap<
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^AP Photo BEI-101<
^By HUSSEIN DAKROUB=
^Associated Press Writer=

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ The leader of Hezbollah on Monday pledged to help search for an Israeli serviceman still missing in Lebanon after the successful swap of the bodies of two other Israeli soldiers for Lebanese prisoners and guerrilla remains.

Despite the positive political climate spurred by the biggest prisoner swap between Hezbollah and Israel in 14 years, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah said his group would not abandon a guerrilla war against Israeli troops occupying a border enclave in south Lebanon.

''What happened yesterday has nothing to do with our resistance operations,'' Nasrallah said. ''We will continue our struggle until the enemy is out of Lebanon.''

He spoke at a news conference in Beirut, hours after Israel freed a second batch of 23 prisoners, completing the oft-delayed, German-mediated swap of bodies and prisoners.

Israel released the first group of 22 prisoners on Sunday after Hezbollah turned over the bodies of privates Rahamim Alsheikh and American-born Yosef Fink to German mediator Bernd Schmidbauer.

Schmidbauer, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's top intelligence adviser, escorted the bodies to Israel aboard a German air force transport plane. Hezbollah also released 17 members of Israel's proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army.

Nasrallah said the two Israelis were wounded when they were abducted by Hezbollah guerrillas in an ambush in south Lebanon Feb. 17, 1986.

''I want to reveal for the first time that the two Israeli soldiers had died of grave wounds a few hours after their capture,'' Hezbollah said.

In exchange for the dead soldiers, Israel sent home 123 guerrilla remains. They came in coffins carried by 17 trucks. As they rolled through the gateway at Kfar Tibnit, they sent a powerful stench through the village of 3,000 Shiite Muslims.

But the foul smell did not stop dozens of frenzied relatives from leaping onto the trucks to find the bodies of their loved ones. Some of the caskets carried names but others bore only numbers, making verification difficult.

The coffins later were brought to a Beirut suburb, where they were laid in a mosque in preparation for a mass burial Tuesday according to Shiite rites.

By all accounts, the swap was successful. The only major hitch was the SLA's refusal to hand back the remains of 18 guerrillas in its custody after its own men freed by Hezbollah refused to return to Israeli-occupied territory.

Nasrallah said the release of about 70 more Lebanese prisoners was linked to the fate of Ron Arad, an Israeli air force captain missing since his plane was shot down over Lebanon on Oct. 17, 1986.

Israel believes he may still be alive and held by Iran, Hezbollah's patron. Iran denies that.

Nasrallah said his group had long since lost track of Arad, but that he has promised Schimdbauer ''to help find out his whereabouts.''

''The last we heard was that in the early days of his captivity the guards of the room he was held in had to briefly leave for a regrettable incident.

''When they returned they found the door broken and no trace of Ron Arad,'' he said.

Nasrallah said he had assured Schmidbauer Arad ''was very much alive during his stay with his original captors. After that, we lost track of him.''

Nasrallah paid tribute to Schmidbauer's negotiating skills and expressed hope that he would continue his efforts until all the Lebanese prisoners have been freed.

Many of those freed Sunday and Monday pledged to rejoin guerrilla ranks and to fight against Israel.

''We'll fight against Israel once, twice and three times until its occupation of south Lebanon is eliminated,'' Ali Saad, 30, told The Associated Press after his release.

Saad, a native of the town of Bint Jbeil inside the security zone, said he has spent 11 years in detention.

Most of the others had been held for nine or 10 years.

''I am ready to fight against Israel again if I am called up for Jihad (holy war),'' said Saad Haidora, a 32-year-old Hezbollah fighter from the village of Meis al-Jabal, which also is inside the occupied buffer.

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July 22, 1996

Swaping in
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^BC-Lebanon-Israel<

^Hezbollah Renews Offer for Prisoner Swap With Israel<
^AP Photo BEI-101<
^By HUSSEIN DAKROUB=
^Associated Press Writer=

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ Hezbollah on Wednesday renewed an offer to repatriate the bodies of two Israeli soldiers and release 17 pro-Israeli militiamen in exchange for about 200 Lebanese prisoners.

The offer was made by the group's deputy leader, Sheik Naim Qassem, at a news conference in Beirut's southern suburbs.

Qassem announced the release of two militiamen of the Israeli-sponsored South Lebanon Army as ``a humanitarian gesture.''

The men, who had been held by Hezbollah for two years, presented themselves to journalists as Khalil Ali Hassan, a Shiite, and Francois Aoun, a Christian.

In recent years, there have been a number of releases by both sides. But Israel has yet to accept Hezbollah's offer to swap the bodies of the missing Israelis and the remaining 17 SLA militia detainees for all Lebanese prisoners, who include two Shiite leaders kidnapped in Israeli commando raids.

The bodies held by Hezbollah are believed to be those of Yosef Fink and Rahamim Alsheikh who were captured in an ambush in south Lebanon in February 1986.

Israeli officials say Ron Arad, a navigator whose plane was shot down over Lebanon in October 1986, is still alive. They say he has been taken in Iran after his initial capture in Lebanon by pro-Iranian militiants.

``We have the bodies of two Israelis. We know nothing about the names or number of other (Israelis). As to the SLA prisoners, they will remain with us until a prisoner exchange occurs,'' Qassem said.

Israeli commandos kidnapped Shiite leader Mustafa Dirani in a May 1994 to interrogate him about Arad. He remains in an Israeli jail.

Sheik Abdel-Karim Obeid, a Hezbollah cleric, was seized in an airborne Israeli commando raid on his home in south Lebanon July 28, 1989.

Hezbollah insists that any swap must include Obeid and Dirani.

Some 200 other Lebanese prisoners are held mainly at a detention center in Khiam, a village in an Israeli-occupied enclave in south Lebanon. They are mainly suspected of involvement in anti-Israeli guerrilla campaign.

``The case of more than 200 Lebanese citizens, including a number of women held in Israeli prisons and at Khiam prison is still forgotten by the world,'' Qassem said.

Hezbollah leads a guerrilla war to evict the Israelis and their allied SLA militiamen from the occupied enclave which Israel calls a ``security zone.''
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^BC-Lebanon-Missing Israelis, 2nd Ld-Writethru<

^Hezbollah Says it Has Two Dead Israeli Soldiers, Offers Swap<
^Eds: AMS. UPDATES with Israel's rejection of Hezbollah's offer.<
^AP Photo BEI-101<
^By HUSSEIN DAKROUB=
^Associated Press Writer=

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ The Hezbollah guerrilla group acknowledged Friday it has the bodies of two Missing Israeli soldiers and offered to swap them for detained guerrillas.

But Israel said it was not interested in a deal.

''Yes, we have two dead Israeli soldiers. We don't have any others,'' said Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, secretary general of the Shiite Muslim group which is backed by Iran.

Nasrallah also suggested a trade to resolve the issue of Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon and Shiite Muslims detained by the South Lebanon Army, a militia backed by Israel.

''Let the issue of the missing Israeli soldiers in Lebanon be handled in return for Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners,'' the bearded leader told a crowded news conference in Beirut's southern suburbs.

But Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Ori Orr said no deal would be possible unless missing Israeli airman Ron Arad's whereabouts were determined.

''Until we know where Ron Arad is, and Ron Arad will be part of an overall agreement, there is nothing to talk to them (Hezbollah) about and there won't be anything to talk to them about in the future'' he told Israel's Channel Two television.

Although Hezbollah has consistently denied to have any information about Arad, Orr said the group was connected to the missing airman as ''individuals and an organization.''

He said Iran, Hezbollah's main backer, held the key to Arad's whereabouts.

An Israeli army spokesman earlier said Nasrallah's offer contained nothing new and repeated Israel's determination to ''bring home the missing and the dead.''

Since Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, six Israeli servicemen have gone missing in action. Two of the six were captured by Hezbollah guerrillas in a February 1986 ambush in south Lebanon.

The two Israelis were wounded when Hezbollah captured them, one of them seriously. Nasrallah did not say when the two Israelis died or what the circumstances were.

Israel contends that Arad, captured when his plane was shot down in south Lebanon in October 1986, is the only one of the missing six still alive.

Hezbollah's news conference, held under stringent security measures, was aimed at winning the release of more than 200, mostly Shiite prisoners held by the South Lebanon Army.

The men are held at a detention camp in a south Lebanon enclave controlled by Israel to protect its northern areas from cross-border guerrilla raids.

On Tuesday, Hezbollah released three SLA soldiers, a move that came five days after the SLA freed 32 prisoners, most of them Shiites.

Nasrallah said Hezbollah was prepared to trade the 19 SLA men it is still holding for the freedom of Shiite prisoners, including two Hezbollah leaders.

Israeli commandos kidnapped a militant Shiite commander, Mustafa Dirani, from eastern Lebanon in May 1994 to interrogate him about Arad's fate.

The other leader is Sheik Abdel-Karim Obeid, a Hezbollah cleric seized in an airborne Israeli commando raid on his south Lebanon home July 28, 1989.

Hezbollah has been waging a guerrilla war to evict the 1,200 Israeli soldiers and the 2,500-strong SLA from the border strip occupied by the Jewish state since 1985.
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Kedmo Missing Israelis

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Karin. Seeking yr verdict pls on how to spell missing Israeli soldiers' names. The list i have which is what we had been using over the years has the following. pls correct or endorse so we can standardize all around.

- 0 -

Zachary Baumel
Zvi Feldman
Yehuda Katz
Yosef Fink
Rahamim Alsheikh
Ron Arad

Baumel's and Fink's first names are the ones we seem to keep changing. Thanks and Rgds, MZ

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Zeev Schiff, the military commentator for Israel's Haaretz daily, says that the swap is taking place in stages, and that the first stage has already been carried out -- the release of an unspecified number of SLA soldiers by Hezbollah. here are excerpts from his article today.

``The first stage of a deal for the exchange of prisoners and bodies with Hezbollah, during which Israel should receive the bodies of the two soldiers Fink and Alsheikh, began with a group of SLA soldiers being released from captivity. Two such freed soldiers refused to return to their families in the security zone, and this caused a delay in the implementation of the deal. Now all parties are awaiting the next stages in the exchange deal.''

``Foreign sources say that the deal has several stages; among other things, bodies of Hezbollah fighters which remained on Israeli soil will be exchanged, as well as the bodies of SLA soldiers and the bodies of Alsheikh and Fink. This part of the deal is supposed to be carried out in two stages.''

``A comparable exchange was discussed in the past, but the negotiations always broke down when the return of the bodies of the IDF soldiers was broached. Israel maintained that the IDF bodies should be returned at an early stage of the exchange...As stated, the first stage, the return of the SLA soldiers, has been carried out, but to the surprise of family members and SLA commanders, two liberated soldiers announced that they would not return to the security zone. It appears that the pair was pressured by Hezbollah.''

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Swapping

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^Red Cross delegate holds talks in Beirut on prisoner deal<

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ A Red Cross representative met Wednesday with Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in negotiations aimed at swapping Lebanese prisoners held by Israel for the remains of Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon.

Jean-Jacques Fresard, a delegate of the Geneva-headquartered International Committee of the Red Cross, handed Hariri a letter on the topic. He refused to talk to reporters after the meeting.

Following a similar meeting with Hariri in October, Fresard said the negotiations could take months.

Lebanese guerrillas hold parts of the bodies of Israeli soldiers killed in a botched commando raid in southern Lebanon on Sept. 5. Twelve soldiers died in the incident.

The Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrilla group displayed some of the body parts after the incident. Others are believed in the hands of the Amal militia and the Lebanese Army.

The guerrilla groups have called for a swap.

Hezbollah last year traded the remains of two Israeli soldiers for 45 Lebanese detainees held by Israel and its Lebanese allies.

Fresard's meeting with Hariri came a day before a scheduled visit to Beirut by Russia's Middle East envoy, Viktor Posuvalyuk, for talks on the stalled Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

Posuvalyuk also was expected to meet with Hezbollah's secretary-general, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, to discuss a prisoner exchange deal.

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Swap

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^Hezbollah releases two pro-Israeli militiamen<
^AP Photo BEI101<
^By BASSEM MROUE=
^Associated Press Writer=

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ Hezbollah guerrillas freed two pro-Israeli militiamen on Friday, a day after Israel and its allied militia released 27 Lebanese guerrilla suspects.

The two members of the South Lebanon Army militia opted not to return to the Israeli-occupied zone of southern Lebanon, where they were captured several months ago, preferring to stay in the government-controlled part of the country.

The two SLA members, Assad Tormoss and Najm Habib, were handed over to officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross at a Hezbollah security office in south Beirut. They were greeted by relatives in the presence of journalists.

``I hope every mother will be as happy as I am today,'' said Habib's mother, Wardeh, who wept as she kissed her 20-year-old son.

``What do you think the feeling of a free man is?'' Tormoss said as he left the Hezbollah office. ``I am very happy because I am going back to my family.''

Tormoss told reporters he would stay in Beirut for the immediate future. Habib and his wife, mother and sister headed to his hometown of Jezzine in southern Lebanon. The militia withdrew from the town in June.

Hezbollah's politburo chief, Mohammed Raad, told reporters the two men would ``return to their families and nation to continue normal lives.''

He said the release would facilitate negotiations more exchanges of prisoners. He said Hezbollah still holds SLA members, but did not give a figure. The Iranian-backed group is known to hold at least two more militiamen.

Hezbollah is leading a guerrilla war to evict the Israelis and their militia from a zone in south Lebanon that Israel set up in 1985 as a buffer against cross-border attack.

The militia holds about 120 people, suspected of being guerrillas or sympathizers, in its Khiam detention camp in the Israeli-occupied zone. Another 14 suspects are held in Israeli jails.

The Israelis have demanded as part of any future swap information about the fate of missing airman Ron Arad, who was captured by guerrillas in southern Lebanon in 1986 after his fighter-bomber was shot down.

On Thursday, the militia released 25 people from Khiam. Israel also freed two Lebanese men who had been held in one of its prisons for more than 13 years.

But only eight of the 27 former detainees returned to government-controlled territory. The others decided to stay with their families in the occupied zone.

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Swapping

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^Israel extends arrest of two prominent Hezbollah members

¶ JERUSALEM (AP) _ A Tel Aviv court extended on Sunday the arrests of two senior members of a Lebanese guerrilla group who Israel wants to use to secure the release of Israeli servicemen who went missing in action.

¶ Sheik Abdel Karim Obeid was abducted by Israeli commandoes 11 years ago, and Mustafa Dirani was seized six years ago.

¶ Both are members of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militia, which leads efforts to oust Israel from the area it has occupied in south Lebanon since 1985 to prevent cross-border attacks.

¶ The prosecution in Sunday's hearing at the Tel Aviv District court had asked for six months extension to Obeid and Dirani's arrest but the judge granted four, said Zvi Rish, the prisoners' Israeli lawyer.

¶ Israeli justice ministry officials have said that the two and 19 other Lebanese are being held as bargaining chips to be used to win the release of Israeli MIAs.

¶ The 19 other Lebanese have been held for between 10 and 14 years after they were also abducted in south Lebanon. None of the 21 have been put on trial.

¶ None of the missing Israeli servicemen is thought to be held by Hezbollah itself.

¶ The Israeli Supreme Court has agreed to review the cases of the 21 Lebanese and indicated that it may make a ruling on a request for their release by the end of the month, Rish said.

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Swap

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^Israeli court again orders government to release 19 Lebanese held as bargaining chips<
^by JACK KATZENELL=
^Associated Press Writer=

JERUSALEM (AP) _ An Israeli court ordered the Israeli government on Sunday to release 19 Lebanese held for years as bargaining chips in the hope of securing the return of missing Israeli servicemen.

The ruling, by the Tel Aviv District court, duplicated its own June 1998 ruling, which the state appealed to the Supreme Court _ an appeal that has yet to be heard. The state is entitled to a month to appeal Sunday's ruling to the Supreme Court, and the Lebanese will remain in detention for that period.

The ruling rejected a request from the government to extend the prisoners' detention for a further six months. According to Israel's state of emergency laws, the state must renew detention requests every six months.

The decision to reject the extension was surprising because the earlier decision has yet to be heard by the Supreme Court. It was a signal that the district court judge, Ori Goren, was impatient with the Supreme Court's slowness, and prodding the higher court to consider the case.

The prisoners' Israeli lawyer, Zvi Rish, sharply criticized the Supreme Court for the delay. ''If this is not a violation of the basic law on human dignity and freedom, I don't know what is,'' he told The Associated Press.

The Lebanese civilians were arrested by Israeli forces in south Lebanon and have been held without trial for periods of 10-14 years.

The district court did agree to extend the detention of two other Lebanese, but for two months only. Both are prominent members of the Hezbollah guerrilla group which is fighting to oust Israeli forces from the area of south Lebanon which they occupy to protect Israel's northern border.

Sheik Abdel Karim Obeid was abducted by Israeli commandoes 11 years ago, and Mustafa Dirani was seized six years ago.

A justice ministry official has admitted in court that all 21 Lebanese are being held as bargaining chips to secure the release of Israeli servicemen who went missing in action in Lebanon.

Media reports have said that some of the men were teenagers at the time of their arrest, and are not even connected to the Hezbollah. One man was receiving a wedding blessing from Dirani when both were seized by Israeli troops.

Three Israeli soldiers went missing during the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the air force navigator Ron Arad has been missing since 1986 when his F-4 Phantom crashed in Lebanon and he was taken prisoner.

None of the missing servicemen is thought to be held by Hezbollah itself.

The state has not yet decided whether to appeal against Sunday's ruling. The Justice Ministry spokesman said the state is still studying the decision.

Israel's liberal justice minister, Yossi Beilin, has introduced a bill to repeal the emergency laws. Should it pass, Israel would have no provision to hold the Lebanese.
^jk-rk<

AP-LD-10-17-99 1828GMT<

South Swapping

RTT2673-----

u ibx
intj 888 nat cai 02
^BC-Lebanon-ICRC, 1st Ld-Writethru
^ICRC representative decorated for Lebanon-Israel swap
^Eds: ADDS final graf with Netanyahu thanking Chirac

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ The Beirut delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross was honored Thursday for his efforts in a swap between Lebanon and Israel of prisoners and remains.

Prime Minister Rafik Hariri decorated Jean-Jacques Fresard, a Swiss, with the High National Order of Cedars in the Rank of Officer at a special ceremony at the premier's office. The award is one of Lebanon's highest honors.

``You worked hard and in silence and we cooperated during those past nine months for solving this problem which was of particular difficulty for us,'' Hariri told Fresard.

Fresard was the main intermediary in the long negotiations that led to Israel's return of the bodies of 40 Lebanese guerrillas and the release of 60 prisoners held in its jails in exchange for the remains of an Israeli soldier.

Last week, Fresard accompanied the remains of Israeli Sgt. Itamar Ilya, who was killed in a botched commando raid in southern Lebanon last September. He returned on the same French military plane with the coffins of 40 Lebanese guerrillas.

Fresard then led a convoy of 60 prisoners who were released from Israeli detention and handed over to Lebanese authorities in southern Lebanon.

In Israel Thursday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called French President Jacques Chirac to thank him for his help in securing the swap, Netanyahu's office said in a statement. Chirac had discussed the deal with Lebanese officials during his visit to Beirut in May and acted as guarantor of the exchange.

^jp-sfg-as/ibm
July 02, 1998

Swap

RTT0277-----
u ibx
intj 888 nat cai 02
^BC-Lebanon-Israel, 1st Ld-Writethru
^Tens of thousands turn out for funeral for Hezbollah guerrillas
^Eds: INSERTS Hezbollah's Iranian links graf 2 and 9; CLARIFIES name of south Beirut district graf 11; no pickup
^AP Photos BEI-101/105
^By HUSSEIN DAKROUB=
^Associated Press Writer=

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ Tens of thousands of Lebanese turned out Saturday for a funeral of 28 Hezbollah guerrillas whose corpses had been returned by Israel.

The leader of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, wearing a black turban and robes, conducted the ceremony in a south Beirut soccer field where his own 18-year-old son lay in one of the coffins before the podium.

As the crowd, including about a dozen members of parliament, sat on chairs in the 28 degrees Celsius (82 F) heat, Nasrallah said the exchange Thursday and Friday of prisoners and body parts with Israel would not lead to negotiations between the two countries.

''This is purely a humanitarian operation and has no political link whatsoever with the Israeli enemy,'' Nasrallah said, in an apparent answer to Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai who had expressed hopes that the swap would pave the way for peace talks.

''With this enemy, we use only the language of bullets, blood, resistance and martyrdom,'' Nasrallah said.

Hezbollah supporters replied with a chant of ''Death to Israel.''

But Nasrallah went out of his way to answer another Israeli legislator, Yossi Beilin, who had expressed fears that the lopsided exchange _ the body parts of one Israeli soldier for 60 Lebanese prisoners and 40 corpses _ would allow the guerrillas to think they could ''get the same price'' for only a body.

''Any soldier who is taken prisoner will not be in danger ... We will look after his soul and life like his mother and father,'' Nasrallah said.

The crowd rose to its feet as Nasrallah led a 15-minute prayer from the stand, which was flanked by photographs of Iran's spiritual leader, Ali Khamenei, and his predecessor, Ruhollah Khomeini.

After the two-hour service, Hezbollah cadres in black uniforms carried the coffins, each wrapped in the party's yellow flag and bearing a bouquet of yellow and red flowers, out of the field. Fifteen coffins were loaded into vehicles to be taken to hometowns across the country.

The thirteen others were carried through the streets of Sfeir district to a cemetery, followed by thousands of relatives, friends, Hezbollah supporters and Shiite Muslim clerics in black robes.

Nasrallah's son, Hadi, was killed in a clash with Israeli troops in southern Lebanon in September.

Of the 40 bodies handed over by Israel on Thursday, nine belonged to members of the pro-Syrian Amal group and three belonged to the communist party.

^hd-sfg-jbm
June 27, 1998

Swap

JEL9878-------
r i BC-Israel-Lebanon 5thLd-Writethru 06-24 0507
jer int nat 888 02 ldqen brt cai par
^BC-Israel-Lebanon, 5th Ld-Writethru
^Workers to begin unearthing remains for body-and-prisoner swap
^Eds: UPDATES with 15 Lebanese prisoners moved from Israel to their militia allies in south Lebanon in grafs 5-6; UPGRADES attribution in graf 3<
^AP Photos
^By DAFNA LINZER=
^Associated Press Writer=

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) _ Israel began unearthing the bodies of some 40 Shiite Muslim guerrillas Wednesday it plans to swap for the remains of a single Israeli soldier in the largest prisoner exchange with Lebanon in two years.

Israel's Channel 2 TV said the swap was scheduled to take place Thursday at 8:00pm (17:00gmt). A plane carrying the body of Sgt. 1st Class Itamar Ilya was to arrive in Israel from Beirut, Lebanon and then return to Lebanon with the bodies of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas.

Israel TV said Israel would identify Ilya's body, most likely at Israel's pathology center, before releasing the remains of the guerrillas. The French government was providing the plane for the swap, French foreign ministry officials said in Paris.

A second stage of the swap, brokered by the International Committee of the Red Cross, was to take place Friday, Channel 2 reported. Israel would hand over an addition 16 Lebanese prisoners held in Israeli jails and 50 more would be freed from a prison in south Lebanon.

In Lebanon, officials from the pro-Israeli South Lebanese Army militia said up to 15 Lebanese prisoners were taken out of Israeli jails and placed in their custody in south Lebanon.

The prisoners are being held at the Khiam detention center and are expected to be released later as part of the swap, said the militia officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

At a military cemetery in northern Israel, workers and soldiers lifted wooden coffins out of the ground which hold the remains of the guerrillas killed during fighting with Israel.

Israel's army radio said members of a special rabbinical military unit went to the scene of the exhumations.

The 21-year-old Israeli soldier died in a raid last September in south Lebanon along with 11 other Israelis. Ilya's body was the only one not recovered after the raid, according to Israel. In the raid's aftermath, guerrilla groups in Lebanon displayed body parts and captured equipment.

Israel will also be returning the remains of the son of Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, killed in separate fighting last September.

Large-scale swaps have taken place previously, with the last one two years ago.

In July 1996, Israel freed 45 Hezbollah prisoners and returned the bodies of 123 guerrillas in exchange for the remains of two Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon 10 years ago.

Hezbollah has been fighting to drive Israel and its allied militia out of a buffer zone Israel set up in 1985 in southern Lebanon to prevent cross-border raids. Israel has said it wants to withdraw, but only if the security of its northern border can be guaranteed by Lebanon.

^pvs-di
AP-LD-06-24-98 1937GMT<

Swap

CAV4591--------
u i BC-Lebanon-Israel 06-23 0401
cai brt intj 888 02 nat
^BC-Lebanon-Israel
^REPEATING with computer codings<
^Guerrilla group refuses to deliver scalp of dead Israeli soldier
^By SAM F. GHATTAS=
^Associated Press Writer=

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ A Lebanese group threatened Tuesday to thwart an expected swap of prisoners and body parts with Israel by reiterating it would not release an Israeli soldier's scalp.

A spokesman for the Shiite Muslim party, Amal, whose guerrillas retrieved the scalp after an Israeli raid last year, said his group would not participate in the exchange, slated for later this week.

``The movement considers itself uninvolved in the exchange that will take place unless its demands are addressed,'' said the spokesman, who spoke on on condition of anonymity.

The pro-Syrian group is insisting on freedom for 27 prisoners held by Israel, which has been fighting a running war with guerrillas in and around a strip of land it occupies in southern Lebanon.

Ilya was killed during a botched Israeli commando raid in southern Lebanon on Sept. 5. While the retreating Israelis managed to take 11 of their dead comrades with them, they did not retrieve Ilya's body, which had been blown to pieces in an explosion.

Most of his remains are in the hands of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, the main guerrilla group fighting Israeli troops in southern Lebanon and Amal's arch rival.

In recent days press reports in Lebanon and Israel have said Israel would release up to 60 Lebanese prisoners and hand over the bodies of up to 60 guerrillas killed in the fighting. In return, Lebanon was to hand over Ilya's body parts.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bweiz said Monday that some details remained to be worked out before the swap took place.

Amal's spokesman said another swap between Amal and Israel could take place at a later date.

In Jerusalem, a spokesman for the Israeli army declined to respond to Amal's position on Ilya, but it was thought highly unlikely that the government would accept anything less than the entire remains of the commando.

Danny Grisarou, a spokesman for the families of Israeli Missing-In-Action troops, told The Associated Press his group would not accept a swap that returned only part of Ilya.

Israel has maintained the zone in southern Lebanon since 1985 in a bid to protect its northern territory from guerrilla attack.
^stg-dh-jbm/vj<

AP-LD-06-23-98 1508GMT<

Swap.

CAS7600---------
u i BC-Lebanon-Israel 06-22 0389
intj 888 nat cai 02 brt ldgen jer
^BC-Lebanon-Israel
^Foreign minister: `Details' needed before swap is concluded
^By SAM F. GHATTAS=
^Associated Press Writer=

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ Details must be worked out before remains of an Israeli soldier are swapped for Lebanese prisoners and dead guerrillas held by Israel, Lebanon's foreign minister said Monday.

The comments were the latest to mark months of tortuous negotiations mediated by the International Committee of the Red Cross for the exchange of the remains of Itamar Ilya, an Israeli soldier killed in an ambush in September, for scores of Lebanese killed in fighting or detained in southern Lebanon.

``Although progress was achieved, I think these discussions still need more details,'' Foreign Minister Faris Bweiz said Monday.

The swap was expected this week, although the numbers of prisoners and dead guerrillas to be handed over were not clear.

Israel's Channel 2 TV, which reported Sunday that Ilya's body would be returned at the end of this week, said Israel would release the bodies of 60 Lebanese guerrillas killed in fighting and buried in Israel after Ilya's body is identified.

Israeli sources told The Associated Press in Jerusalem on Sunday that Israel would release 50 guerrillas for Ilya's remains.

The leftist Beirut newspaper As-Safir said Monday a French plane would carry the Israeli body parts from Beirut airport to Tel Aviv, while a second plane would carry the bodies of 40 Lebanese guerrillas from Tel Aviv to Beirut in coordination with the ICRC.

In addition to the remains, including those of the son of Hezbollah guerrilla leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, Israel would release 60 prisoners from Israeli prisons and the Khiam detention camp in an Israeli-occupied zone in southern Lebanon, As-Safir said.

Ilya and 11 other commandos were killed Sept. 5 in a botched raid north of the Israeli-occupied zone.

As-Safir said the pro-Syrian Amal faction, the Shiite Muslim rival of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrilla group, has not yet given its approval to the swap.

Amal, which holds Ilya's scalp, has demanded the release of a number of its fighters detained by Israel, the paper said.

Amal effectively torpedoed a swap earlier this month when it refused to hand over the part it holds.

^stg-as<
AP-LD-06-22-98 1442GMT<

Swap

CAV4390--------
u i BC-Lebanon-Israel 06-11 0401
cai brt intj 888 02 nat
^BC-Lebanon-Israel
^Lebanon prime minister takes control of prisoner swap deal<
^By ZEINA KARAM=
^Associated Press Writer=

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ Lebanon's prime minister stepped in Thursday to save a prisoner swap deal with Israel, which is in danger of unraveling following interference by a guerrilla group.

The proposed deal is aimed at securing the release of Lebanese prisoners and bodies of dead guerrillas from Israeli custody. In exchange, the Hezbollah guerrillas are supposed to give up the remains of Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon last year.

The deal was being mediated by Jean-Jacques Fresard, Beirut delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who for months had ferried messages between Israel's government and Hariri and the Hezbollah.

However, the deal was jeopardized after the Shiite Muslim Amal, Hezbollah's rival, declared Wednesday it would not return the remains of an Israeli soldier it holds unless it too was made a party to the negotiations.

Seeking to salvage the negotiations, Hariri told Fresard Thursday that he should not deal with any Lebanese group.

Fresard should refrain from contacting ``any official or unofficial Lebanese party'' except for Hariri himself, a statement issued by the prime minister's office said. It cited the ``sensitivity'' of the issue.

The Iranian-backed Hezbollah says it holds most of the remains of at least two Israeli soldiers left behind after a botched commando raid Sept. 5, in which 12 Israeli soldiers were killed in explosions and gunfire.

Amal is believed to hold the scalp of one of the soldiers.

Amal's latest position could delay the release of some 100 Lebanese prisoners and bodies of dead guerrillas by Israel.

Israel has refused to comment on the Amal stand but one official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a deal was still possible.

The statement by Hariri's office said Thursday that negotiations for arranging the deal are continuing.

The pro-Syrian Amal and the Shiite militant Hezbollah have been locked in a power struggle for control of Lebanon's 1.2 million Shiites, the country's largest sect. Their dispute also has moved to the election ground where the two groups are contesting Lebanon's staggered municipal elections. The last phase of the voting is on Sunday when eastern Lebanon goes to the polls.

^zk/sfg/vj<
AP-LD-06-11-98 1324GMT<

Swap

RTT8633-----
u ibx
intj 888 nat 02 cai brt
^BC-Lebanon-Hezbollah-Prisoners
^Only ''touches'' remain to conclude Hezbollah-Israel swap
^By HUSSEIN DAKROUB=
^Associated Press Writer=

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ Only ''final touches'' remain before a deal is worked out to exchange the remains of Israeli soldiers for Lebanese prisoners, the guerrilla group said Friday. One news report said the swap was only days away.

Nayef Koraim, a spokesman for the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, said the deal also included Israel returning the bodies of 40 slain Lebanese guerrillas, including that of the son of Hezbollah's leader.

''Major progress has been made in the past two days. What is left is final touches before a prisoner exchange deal can be concluded,'' Koraim told The Associated Press.

''Such a deal can be reached soon if Israel responds positively to these final touches,'' he said.

Koraim declined to say if the ''final touches'' were related to the number or names of prisoners to be released or to give an exact number of those expected to be freed.

The body of Hadi Nasrallah, the eldest son of Hezbollah Secretary-General Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, would be among the dead returned, Koraim said. Hadi Nasrallah, 18, was killed in fighting with Israeli troops on Sept. 12.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has been relaying messages between Israel and Lebanon for months on a possible swap, but Hezbollah has pushed for freeing a greater number of prisoners.

Sheik Nasrallah said in a TV interview Wednesday that a deal was near involving more than 30 Lebanese prisoners.

Beirut's leftist daily As-Safir on Friday quoted unidentified Lebanese sources as saying a prisoner swap will take place ''within a few days.''

Agreement has been reached in principle on the release of 10 prisoners held in Israel and 30 others from the Khiam detention camp in the Israeli-occupied zone in south Lebanon, the paper said.

In Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appeared less optimistic. Asked if there was progress, Netanyahu told reporters Thursday: ''I hope so, but it's hard to say that it's a closed matter.''

Israel wants back the body parts of more than one Israeli soldier left behind after botched operation in southern Lebanon Sept. 5 in which a total of 12 Israeli commandos were killed.

Nasrallah, whose group is fighting to oust Israeli forces from the occupied zone, said Israel holds about 210 Lebanese, 60 of them in Israel and the rest in Khiam. The prisoners are mostly held on suspicion of being guerrillas or aiding in attacks against Israeli forces.

^hd-ggl
June 5, 1998

Swap

CAT1587-----
·u i BC-Lebanon-Israel 12-20 0490
intj 888 nat cai 02 jer brt
^BC-Lebanon-Israel<
^Hezbollah says it is close to prisoner swap with Israel<

RASHAYA, Lebanon (AP) _ A senior Hezbollah official said Saturday that his guerrilla group and Israel were close to carrying out an exchange of Lebanese prisoners for the remains of Israeli soldiers killed in southern Lebanon.

''We have been told by a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross that our conditions for the release of prisoners and bodies (of guerrillas) have been accepted (by Israel),'' Sheik Naim Kassem, deputy leader of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, said.

But in Jerusalem, Israeli government spokesman David Bar-Illan said he was not aware of any such exchange.

Israeli security sources said Israel had submitted a detailed proposal for the return of a soldier's body parts to the Lebanese government and were awaiting an answer.

Kassem said there were still some details to be worked out before a prisoner swap deal could be finalized.

''We are waiting for the Israelis' response to our latest proposal pertaining to the number (of prisoners to be released by Israel) and some specifications,'' Kassem told a Hezbollah rally in the town of Ein el-Tineh near this southeast Lebanese city.

He did not elaborate on the details, nor did he give a time-frame for the exchange.

But on Dec. 15, Hezbollah spokesman Nayef Koraim told The Associated Press that a prisoner swap deal could be reached by the end of the year if Israel agrees to free more detainees that it has offered.

The Hezbollah legislator Mohammed Fneish has said that Israel offered to release 20 Lebanese prisoners as well as the remains of guerrillas for the body parts of Israeli soldiers killed in a botched commando raid in southern Lebanon on Sept. 5.

The negotiations for an exchange have been undertaken by the Geneva-headquartered International Committee of the Red Cross, whose delegates have been relaying messages between the Lebanese and Israeli governments.

Hezbollah seeks the remains of guerrillas, include the body of Hadi Nasrallah, the son of Hezbollah Secretary-General Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, who was killed in a clash with Israeli troops on Sept. 12.

Israel, which is known to hold about 200 Lebanese detainees, seeks the remains of one of its soldiers killed in a commando raid in southern Lebanon on Sept. 5. Eleven other Israelis died in the raid, but their bodies were retrieved by their retreating comrades.

However, Hezbollah has said it holds body parts of more than one Israeli soldier.

Last year Hezbollah traded the remains of two Israeli soldiers for 45 Lebanese detainees held by Israel and its allied Lebanese militia.

Hezbollah is the most active of Lebanese guerrilla groups fighting to end Israel's occupation of a border enclave. Israel set up the zone in 1985 to act as a buffer against cross-border attacks.
^str-hd-jbm<

AP-LD-12-20-97 1838GMT<

RR0247

U I NCB059 INTJ NAT 888 NIC

LEBANON-BODIES, 5TH LD , sc.

ARAB PRISONERS RELEASED IN POSSIBLE STEP IN HOSTAGE SWAP

EDS: UPDATES WITH PEREZ DE CUELLAR, U.S. STATEMENTS.

BY AHMED MANTASH=

NABATIYEH, LEBANON (AP) - ISRAEL RETURNED THE BODIES OF NINE GUERRILLAS AND ITS PROXY MILITIA RELEASED 51 LEBANESE PRISONERS WEDNESDAY IN A MOVE THAT COULD ACCELERATE EFFORTS TO FREE THE WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON.

THE BODIES WERE ALL THOSE OF MEMBERS OF THE HEZBOLLAH, OR PARTY OF GOD, THE IRANIAN-BACKED SHIITE MUSLIM MILITIA BELIEVED TO HOLD MOST OF THE 11 MISSING WESTERNERS. MOST OF THE RELEASED PRISONERS ALSO BELONGED TO THE GROUP.

THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE INDICATION THAT WESTERN HOSTAGES WOULD BE FREED, BUT THE RELEASE OF THE NEARLY 400 PRISONERS IN HELD BY THE ISRAELI-FINANCED SOUTH LEBANON ARMY MILITIA AT KHIAM IN SOUTH LEBANON HAS BEEN A KEY DEMAND OF HOSTAGE-TAKERS.

IN BEIRUT, HEZBOLLAH'S SPIRITUAL MENTOR, SHEIK MOHAMMED HUSSEIN FADLALLAH, TOLD REPORTERS THE RELEASE OF THE 51 PRISONERS AND THE RETURN OF THE BODIES ''CREATES AN ATMOSPHERE CONDUCIVE TO POSITIVE RESULTS.''

''IT SEEMS THE UNITED STATES HAS GIVEN (U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL JAVIER) PEREZ DE CUELLAR THE GREEN LIGHT. HIS PERSISTENCE IN HIS MISSION INDICATES THERE ARE POSITIVE ASPECTS,'' HE SAID. PEREZ DE CUELLAR WAS IN TEHRAN ON WEDNESDAY DISCUSSING THE HOSTAGE ISSUE.

FADLALLAH DECLINED TO DISCUSS A TIMETABLE OF FUTURE HOSTAGE RELEASES BUT SAID HE EXPECTED MOVEMENT ON THE MISSING WESTERNERS.

PEREZ DE CUELLAR'S SPOKESMAN TRAVELING WITH HIM, FRANCOIS GIULIANI, SAID THE U.N. LEADER WAS ''VERY PLEASED ... AND VERY ENCOURAGED BY THIS FURTHER STEP.

''HE WILL NOW REDOUBLE HIS EFFORTS TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF ALL HOSTAGES, DETAINEES AND MISSING PERSONS.''

IN WASHINGTON, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID IT WELCOMED ISRAEL'S RELEASE OF ARAB PRISONERS AND REPEATED ITS CALL FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF THE WESTERN HOSTAGES.

''AT THIS POINT WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ABOUT AN IMMINENT RELEASE OF HOSTAGES,'' SAID SPOKESMAN RICHARD BOUCHER.

ONE OF THE RELEASED SHIITES, KHODOR MURAD, 39, SAID IN NABATIYEH THAT HE WAS ARRESTED IN ISRAEL'S SELF-DECLARED ''SECURITY ZONE'' IN SOUTH LEBANON SEVEN YEARS AGO AND HAD SPENT THE TIME SINCE IN KHIAM.

''WE WERE, 8TH GRAF LEBANON-BODIES, 4TH LD

GGL

1901G 11 09 91

RR0239
U I NCB055 INTJ NAT 888 NIC
$LEBANON-BODIES, 4TH LD-WRITETHRU
$EDS: FOR AMS. UPDATES WITH FRESH DETAILS, MORE QUOTES, FADLALLAH STATEMENT
$BY AHMED MANTASH=

NABATIYEH, LEBANON (AP) - ISRAEL RETURNED THE BODIES OF NINE GUERRILLAS AND ITS PROXY MILITIA RELEASED 51 LEBANESE PRISONERS WEDNESDAY IN A MOVE THAT COULD ACCELERATE EFFORTS TO FREE THE WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON.

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IN NABATIYEH, ONE RELEASED SHIITE, KHODOR MURAD, 39, SAID HE WAS ARRESTED IN ISRAEL'S SELF-DECLARED ''SECURITY ZONE'' IN SOUTH LEBANON SEVEN YEARS AGO AND HAD SPENT ALL THAT TIME IN KHIAM.

''WE WERE IMPRISONED ALL OF THE TIME IN UNDERGROUND CELLS IN KHIAM. AT NOON (0900 GMT) TODAY OUR NAMES WERE CALLED BY SLA GUARDS,'' MURAD SAID.

''WE WERE HANDED WHITE TRACKSUITS AND I SENSED SOMETHING IS COMING. SLA MILITIAMEN WITH ISRAELI TROOPS THEN TOOK US IN MILITARY VEHICLES TO KFAR TIBNIT, WHERE WE WERE TOLD WE'RE GOING TO BE FREED,'' MURAD SAID. ''I WAS OVERWHELMED BY JOY.''

HE SAID THE FOOD HE HAD DURING HIS IMPRISONMENT CONSISTED DAILY OF RICE AND SAUCE WITH A PIECE OF BREAD.

''I NEVER HAD ANY FRUITS AND HAD JAM FOR BREAKFAST ONLY ONCE A MONTH,'' MURAD SAID.

ANOTHER FREED KHIAM INMATE, HUSSEIN ISSA, 42, SAID: ''MAY GOD BE PRAISED. IT'S ALL OVER NOW. I WANT TO SEE MY WIFE AND THREE CHILDREN.''

ISSA, WHO ALSO SPENT SEVEN YEARS IN KHIAM, WAS HUGGED AND KISSED BY HIS WEEPING YOUNGER BROTHER, MOHAMMED, AND THEN BOTH LEFT FOR THE FAMILY'S HOUSE IN THE NEIGHBORING VILLAGE OF KFAR RUMMAN, A HEZBOLLAH STRONGHOLD.

OFFICIALS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS TOLD REPORTERS THE NINE BODIES WERE HANDED OVER BY ISRAELI AUTHORITIES TO THE ICRC AT THE LEBANESE BORDER TOWN OF NAQOURA AT 4:15 P.M (1315 GMT).

$MORE
18310 11 09 91

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WR0276

U I WCB067 INTJ 888 NAT NIC

^LEBANON-BODIES INSERT

^LEBANON-BODIES, 4TH LD, TO UPDATE INSERT AFTER 13TH GRAF: ISSA, WHO XXX HEZBOLLAH STRONGHOLD.

DESPITE HEZBOLLAH'S APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO DEAL WITH ISRAEL IN A PRISONER SWAP, THE BODIES OF THE SLAIN SHIITES WERE GREETED WITH SHOUTED ANTI-ISRAELI SLOGANS WHEN THEY WERE TAKEN TO THE GREAT PROPHET MOSQUE IN THE BEIRUT SUBURB OF BOURJ EL-BARAJNEH.

''IT'S WAR TO LIBERATE JERUSALEM OR ACHIEVE MARTYRDOM,'' MEN CHANTED AS WOMEN, DRESSED IN BLACK HEAD-TO-TOE CHADORS, ULULATED IN GRIEF.

''MAY GOD'S WRATH FALL ON ISRAEL,'' ONE WOMAN SHOUTED. ABOUT 300 MEN AND WOMEN CAME TO THE MOSQUE IN HOPES OF LEARNING THE VICTIMS' IDENTITIES.

OFFICIALS OF, 14TH GRAF LEBANON-BODIES 4TH LD

^RK-MS-GGL

2025G 11 09 91

aa

RR0240

U I NCB056 INTJ NAT NIC 888

^LEBANON-BODIES, 4TH LD-1ST ADD

^NABATIYEH: 4:15 P.M. (1315GMT).

IN ISRAEL, A MILITARY COMMUNIQUE SAID THE BODIES WERE TURNED OVER AND PRISONERS FREED BECAUSE THE COUNTRY GOT ''IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE'' THAT ONE OF ITS SEVEN SOLDIERS MISSING IN LEBANON, RAHAMIN ALSHEIKH, WAS DEAD.

A PRISONER EXCHANGE HAS BEEN HELD UP BECAUSE ISRAEL HAS CLAIMED ITS NOT GOTTEN WORD ON THE FATE OF ITS MISSING MEN.

THE BODIES WERE IN SEALED WOODEN CASKETS LABELED WITH RED NUMBERS. EACH COFFIN BORE THE NAME OF THE VICTIM.

ICRC CHIEF DELEGATE CHRISTOPHE HARNISCH AND AIDES TOOK THE NINE BODIES IN FOUR LEBANESE RED CROSS AMBULANCES FROM NAQOURA TO THE SOUTHERN PORT CITY OF TYRE.

HEZBOLLAH'S POLITICAL CHIEF IN TYRE, HASSAN HOBBALLAH, SAID THE PARTY WAS NOTIFIED BY THE ICRC OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE BODIES. ''THEY ALL BELONG TO US,'' HE TOLD REPORTERS.

A CROWD OF VILLAGERS GATHERED AT THE ICRC CENTER IN TYRE, WHERE THE BODIES WERE KEPT IN AMBULANCES, TRYING TO LEARN THE IDENTITY OF THE VICTIMS. THE BODIES WERE TAKEN TO THE GREAT PROPHET MOSQUE IN BOURJ EL-BARAJNEH, A BEIRUT SUBURB.

THE PRISONERS' RELEASE CAME ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY AT THE VILLAGE OF KFAR TIBNIT ON THE EDGE OF ISRAEL'S SELF-PROCLAIMED ''SECURITY ZONE.'', KFAR TIBNIT IS ABOUT 30 MILES (51 KILOMETERS) INLAND FROM NAQOURA ON THE MEDITERRANEAN.

ICRC OFFICIALS TOLD REPORTERS 51 LEBANESE PRISONERS WERE HANDED OVER TO THEM BY OFFICERS OF THE ISRAELI-ALLIED SOUTH LEBANON ARMY MILITIA. TWENTY-NINE WERE MEMBERS OF HEZBOLLAH AND ALL BUT ONE OF THE OTHERS WERE COMMUNISTS.

AFTER THE RELEASE, 29 PRISONERS WERE TAKEN BY THE ICRC TO THE SOUTH LEBANON MARKET TOWN OF NABATIYEH AND THE OTHER 22, INCLUDING FIVE WOMEN, REMAINED IN THE SECURITY ZONE WHERE THEIR FAMILIES LIVE.

^RS-FN-GGL

1834G 11 09 91

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RR0210
. U I NCB049 INTJ NAT 888 NIC
^LEBANON-BODIES, 3RD LD
^URGENT
^PRECEDE NAQOURA
^EDS: FIRMS UP ATTRIBUTION, ADDS BYLINE
^BY AHMED MANTASH=

NABATIYEH, LEBANON (AP) - ISRAEL RETURNED THE BODIES OF NINE GUERRILLAS AND ITS PROXY MILITIA RELEASED 51 LEBANESE PRISONERS WEDNESDAY IN A MOVE THAT COULD ACCELERATE EFFORTS TO GAIN FREEDOM FOR THE WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON.

OFFICIALS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS TOLD REPORTERS THE NINE BODIES WERE HANDED OVER BY ISRAELI AUTHORITIES TO THE ICRC AT THE LEBANESE BORDER TOWN OF NAQOURA AT 4:15 P.M (1315 GMT).

THE BODIES WERE IN SEALED CASKETS. THEY BELONGED TO GUERRILLAS OF HEZBOLLAH, OR THE PARTY OF GOD, IRAN'S MAIN SHIITE MUSLIM ALLY IN LEBANON.

Harnisch

ICRC CHIEF DELEGATE CHRISTOPHE ~~KITE~~ AND AIDES TOOK THE NINE BODIES IN LEBANESE RED CROSS AMBULANCES FROM NAQOURA TO THE SOUTHERN PORT CITY OF TYRE, WHERE THEY WERE HANDED OVER TO HEZBOLLAH REPRESENTATIVES.

HEZBOLLAH SOURCES IN TYRE, WHO REQUESTED ANONYMITY, SAID THE BODIES WOULD BE TAKEN LATER WEDNESDAY TO THE GREAT PROPHET MOSQUE IN SOUTH BEIRUT'S BOURJ EL-BARAJNEH SUBURB.

THE PRISONERS' RELEASE OCCURRED ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY AT THE SOUTHERN VILLAGE OF KFAR TIBNIT ON THE EDGE OF ISRAEL'S SELF-PROCLAIMED ''SECURITY ZONE'' IN SOUTH LEBANON.

KFAR TIBNIT IS ABOUT 30 MILES (51 KILOMETERS) INLAND FROM NAQOURA, WHICH IS ON THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST.

ICRC OFFICIALS TOLD REPORTERS 51 LEBANESE PRISONERS, MOST OF THEM SHIITES, WERE HANDED OVER TO THEM BY OFFICERS OF THE ISRAELI-ALLIED SOUTH LEBANON ARMY MILITIA.

TWENTY-NINE OF THE RELEASED PRISONERS WERE TAKEN BY THE ICRC TO THE LEBANESE ARMY BARRACKS IN SOUTH LEBANON'S MARKET TOWN OF NABATIYEH.

REPORTERS WERE TOLD THAT THE REMAINING 22 RELEASED PRISONERS, INCLUDING FIVE WOMEN, REMAINED INSIDE THE SECURITY ZONE BECAUSE THEIR FAMILIES LIVE IN THAT AREA.

KHODOR MURAD, 39, A RELEASED SHIITE, SAID HE WAS ARRESTED IN THE SECURITY ZONE SEVEN YEARS AGO AND HAD SPENT ALL THE TIME IN THE SLA-RUN KHIAM PRISON.

''WE WERE IMPRISONED ALL OF THE TIME IN UNDERGROUND CELLS IN KHIAM. AT NOON (0900 GMT) TODAY OUR NAMED WERE CALLED BY SLA GUARDS,'' MURAD TOLD ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTER AHMED MANTASH.

''WE WERE HANDED WHITE TRACKSUITS AND I SENSED SOMETHING IS COMING. SLA MILITIAMEN WITH ISRAELI TROOPS THEN TOOK US IN MILITARY VEHICLES TO KFAR TIBNIT, WHERE WE WERE TOLD WE'RE GOING TO BE FREED,'' MURAD SAID. ''I WAS OVERWHELMED BY JOY.''

THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE INDICATION THAT WESTERN HOSTAGES WOULD BE FREED. BUT THE RELEASE OF THE NEARLY 400 PRISONERS IN KHIAM HAS BEEN A KEY DEMAND OF LEBANESE HOSTAGE-TAKERS.

THE SLA COMMANDER, 5TH GRAF LEBANON-BODIES 2ND LD, 167 ADD
^FN-RS-RK-GGL
1653G 11 09 91

RR0147.

U I NCB025 INTJ NAT 888 JER

^LEBANON-BODIES, 1ST LD

^URGENT

^ISRAEL TO FREE 51 ARAB PRISONERS, RELEASE 9 GUERRILLA BODIES

^EDS: UPDATES WITH ISRAEL TO FREE 51 ARAB PRISONERS

NAGOURA, LEBANON (AP) - ISRAEL WILL HAND OVER WEDNESDAY 51 SHIITE MUSLIM PRISONERS AND THE BODIES OF NINE ARAB GUERRILLAS TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS, OFFICIALS SAID.

MAJ. GEN. ANTOINE LAHD, COMMANDER OF THE ISRAELI-BACKED SOUTH LEBANON ARMY MILITIA, SAID 51 DETAINEES WOULD BE RELEASED FROM THE KHIAM PRISON IN SOUTH LEBANON.

HE SAID ON THE SLA-RUN VOICE OF THE SOUTH RADIO STATION THAT THE DETAINEES WOULD BE HANDED OVER TO RED CROSS DELEGATES BUT DID NOT SAY WHEN AND WHERE THE TURNOVER WOULD TAKE PLACE.

^MORE

1308G 11 09 91

[illegible]

RR014

U I NCB017 NIC INTJ NAT 886

^LEBANON-BODIES

^URGENT

^ISRAEL TO HAND OVER NINE GUERRILLA BODIES TO RED CROSS

NAQOURA, LEBANON (AP) - ISRAEL WILL HAND OVER WEDNESDAY THE BODIES OF NINE ARAB GUERRILLAS KILLED IN ANTI-ISRAELI ATTACKS IN SOUTH LEBANON, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS SAID.

ICRC SPOKESMAN MOHSEN JAMAL SAID DELEGATES OF THE MISSION WOULD RECEIVE THE BODIES AT 2 P.M. (1100 GMT) AT THE LEBANESE BORDER TOWN OF NAQOURA.

HE DID NOT HAVE THE NATIONALITIES OR IDENTITIES OF THE BODIES.

THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE WORD WHETHER THE MOVE WAS CONNECTED WITH EFFORTS TO FREE WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON.

1107G 11 09 91

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RR0336 Swap. S.L

- U I W0389 888U 02 27 37 23 08

$ISRAEL-SCENE,0425

$TURNOVER OF ARAB GUERRILLA BODIES CONDUCTED IN SILENCE

$BY ARIEH O'SULLIVAN=

$ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

ROSH HANIKRA, ISRAEL (AP) - ONE BY ONE, THE NINE SIMPLE PINE COFFINS WERE CARRIED ON THE SHOULDERS OF ISRAELI TROOPS WEDNESDAY TO THIS ISRAEL-LEBANON BORDER CHECKPOINT OVERLOOKING THE MEDITERRANEAN.

EACH COFFIN WAS TAKEN BY LEBANESE RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS AND PUT INTO AMBULANCES.

NO WORDS WERE SPOKEN. NO ONE PRAYED. AN OFFICIAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS PEERED AT EACH COFFIN AND READ THE NAME FROM A PIECE OF PAPER TAPED TO THE LID.

THE DEAD WERE SHIITE MUSLIM GUERRILLAS KILLED IN THE STRIP OF SOUTH LEBANON THAT ISRAEL CONTROLS AS A BUFFER ZONE.

ALL WERE MEMBERS OF THE HEZBOLLAH MILITIA, AND FIVE DIED APRIL 18, 1987, IN ONE OF THE BIGGEST BATTLES IN THE ZONE. THE ISRAELI ARMY SAID AT THE TIME THAT 18 GUERRILLAS WERE KILLED.

THE BODIES WERE REPATRIATED AND 51 LEBANESE PRISONERS WERE FREED FROM THE EL-KHIAM PRISON RUN BY THE ISRAELI-BACKED SOUTH LEBANON ARMY MILITIA IN EXCHANGE FOR ISRAEL'S GETTING CONFIRMATION THAT A MISSING ISRAELI SOLDIER, RAHAMIM ALSHEIKH, WAS DEAD.

ISRAELI OFFICIALS SAID THEY HOPED WEDNESDAY'S DEVELOPMENT WOULD SPEED THE RELEASE OF 11 WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON.

''IT IS STARTING TO HAPPEN,'' SAID AN ARMY OFFICER AS HE WATCHED THE TRANSFER. HE CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED BY NAME UNDER MILITARY RULES.

''WE'VE BEEN PREPARED FOR THIS FOR A LONG TIME, ONCE THE INFORMATION WOULD START TO FLOW. THIS COULD HAVE BEEN DONE A LONG TIME AGO.''

THE TRANSFER OF COFFINS TOOK 15 MINUTES, WITH THE DEPARTURE OF THE LEBANESE AMBULANCES FOLLOWED BY THE ARRIVAL OF AN ISRAELI BORDER PATROL.

THE COFFINS ARRIVED IN THREE ISRAELI ARMY TRUCKS, ESCORTED BY SOLDIERS IN GREEN BERETS AND TROOPS OF THE MILITARY RABBINATE, SKULLCAPS PEEKING OUT FROM BENEATH THEIR BERETS.

THE RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS WHO RECEIVED THE BODIES WORE ORANGE JUMPSUITS AND SURGICAL MASKS.

THE BORDER GATE OPENED AND THE COFFINS WERE LAID DOWN. THE RED CROSS MEN HOISTED THEM INTO VANS AND DROVE THEM AWAY, TWO TO A VAN.

THE RED CROSS OFFICIALS SAID THE BODIES WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO THE VICTIMS' FAMILIES.

SEVENTY MILES SOUTH IN ROSH HA'AYIN, ALSHEIKH'S FAMILY CLOSETED ITSELF BEHIND SHUTTERED WINDOWS TO ABSORB THE SHOCK OF LEARNING THE SOLDIER WAS CONFIRMED DEAD.

HANANIYA ZEFER, A TOWN OFFICIAL, SAID THAT WHEN ALSHEIKH'S FATHER GOT THE NEWS, HIS REACTION WAS: ''AS JOB SAID, THE LORD HAS GIVEN AND THE LORD HAS TAKEN AWAY.''

2344G 11 09 91

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BTC073
R MBX 13-09 00239
BRT
^ISRAEL-HOSTAGES, 6TH LD
^URGENT<
^PRECEDE JERUSALEM<
^EDS: UPDATES WITH ARRIVAL OF BODY, HOMECOMING PALESTINIAN; ADDS BYLINE<

Swap. S.L.

^ISRAEL GETS BACK BODY, LETS PALESTINIAN EXILE RETURN<
^BY ARIEH O'SULLIVAN=
^ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL (AP) _ AN ISRAELI PLANE BROUGHT HOME AN EXILED PALESTINIAN AND THE BODY OF A MISSING SOLDIER EARLY FRIDAY IN A DEAL THAT IMPROVED THE CHANCES OF FREEING WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON.

AN UNMARKED ISRAELI BOEING 707 LANDED AT AN AIR FORCE BASE NEXT TO BEN-GURION INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT NEAR TEL AVIV. IT BROUGHT THE CORPSE OF SGT. SAMIR ASSAD, MISSING IN LEBANON SINCE 1983, AND ALI ABU HILAL, DEPORTED FROM HIS WEST BANK HOME IN 1986 BECAUSE OF HIS ACTIVITIES IN A SYRIAN-BACKED GUERRILLA MOVEMENT.

THE POPULAR DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE, WHICH HELD ASSAD'S BODY, HANDED OVER THE REMAINS ON CONDITION ISRAEL ALLOWED HILAL TO COME HOME.

THE PLANE HALTED OUT OF SIGHT OF REPORTERS TO LET OFF HILAL, WHO WAS THEN TO BE TAKEN HOME, MILITARY SOURCES SAID. THEN IT TAXIED INTO VIEW TO UNLOAD ASSAD'S CASKET.

THE PLANE ARRIVED FROM VIENNA, WHERE THE DEAL WAS NEGOTIATED THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS.

@@IT WAS A VERY LONG AND COMPLICATED NEGOTIATION WITH LOTS OF UPS AND DOWNS,'' SAID ORI SLONIM, A DEFENSE MINISTRY LAWYER WITH THE ISRAELI TEAM THAT WENT TO VIENNA TO NEGOTIATE THE DEAL.

^MORE< (AOS/ME)<

13/09/91 05-45G

RR0045

R A JMB700 JER INTJ 380 WAT NIC

^ISRAEL-HOSTAGES, 5TH LD, 1ST ADD

^JERUSALEM: THE DEAL.

THE TRADEOFF WAS THE SECOND PUBLIC STEP IN AN APPARENT MULTI-STAGE DEAL BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ITS ARAB FOES IN LEBANON WH IF SUCCESSFUL, WOULD LEAD TO FREEDOM FOR THE WESTERN HOSTAGES LEBANON.

ASSAD IS THE SECOND OF SEVEN SERVICEMEN MISSING IN LEBANON WHOSE FATE HAS BEEN FIRMLY ESTABLISHED THIS WEEK. ON WEDNESDAY, ISRAEL RELEASED 51 DETAINEES AND HANDED OVER THE BODIES OF NINE LEBANESE GUERRILLAS AFTER RECEIVING PROOF THAT ANOTHER OF ITS MISSING, RAHAMIN ALSHEIKH, WAS DEAD.

ISRAEL HAD INSISTED ON RELIABLE INFORMATION ON THE FATE OF OTHER SIX, INCLUDING ASSAD, BEFORE IT WOULD MAKE ANY MORE CONCESSIONS. ON WEDNESDAY, ISRAELI AUTHORITIES SAID THEY EXPECT FURTHER RELEASES TO GO IN STAGES.

ASSAD WAS KIDNAPPED NEAR THE SOUTHERN LEBANESE PORT OF SIDON AND HELD BY THE DFLP, WHICH SAID HE WAS LATER KILLED IN AN ISRA BOMBING RAID. HE WAS 22 WHEN HE WENT MISSING.

ASSAD'S REMAINS WERE IDENTIFIED IN VIENNA BY THE CHIEF MILIT RABBI, BRIG. GEN. GAD NAVON, ACCORDING TO THE MILITARY SOURCES SPOKE ON CONDITION OF ANONYMITY.

ISRAEL HAS SAID IT DISBELIEVES THE DFLP'S VERSION OF HOW ASS DIED, BUT SLONIM DECLINED TO SAY WHETHER ISRAEL NOW WAS SATISFI WITH THE EXPLANATION.

HILAL IS A DFLP ACTIVIST FROM ABU DIS, A WEST BANK VILLAGE O THE OUTSKIRTS OF JERUSALEM. THE MILITARY STATEMENT SAID HIS RET WAS ''A GESTURE'' BY ISRAEL, ''CONDITIONED UPON HIS AGREEMENT N TO BREAK THE LAW IN THE FUTURE.''

THE PLANE ARRIVED AT 1:45 P.M. (2345GMT) AND OPENED ITS LOAD BAY TO DISGORGE A PLAIN COFFIN DRAPED IN A BLUE AND WHITE ISRAE FLAG.

BLACK-BERETED SOLDIERS CARRIED IT ON THEIR SHOULDERS TO AN A TRUCK. RABBI NAVON RECITED A SHORT NON-DENOMINATIONAL PRAYER FO THE FALLEN SOLDIER, ASSAD BEING OF THE ISLAM-RELATED DRUSE COMMUNITY.

THE CEREMONY, UNDER A WARM NIGHT SKY, WAS CONDUCTED IN SOMBE SILENCE, EXCEPT FOR THE PRAYER. THEN THE TRUCK DROVE SLOWLY AWA THE HONOR GUARD SITTING FLANKING THE COFFIN.

''ON THE ONE HAND I'M VERY SORRY THAT WE ARE BRINGING HOME A DEAD SOLDIER,'' SAID SLONIM. ''BUT ON THE OTHER HAND I AM VERY PROUD THAT AFTER GREAT EFFORTS WE BROUGHT BACK HIS REMAINS TO H FAMILY.''

IT IS RARE FOR ISRAEL TO RETURN ANY OF THE MORE THAN 1,000 PALESTINIANS IT HAS DEPORTED FROM THE ARAB TERRITORIES IT CAPTU IN THE 1967. USUALLY THE DEPORTED ARABS WERE ACCUSED OF ANTI-ISRAELI ACTIVITIES.

THE DFLP'S DEMAND MAY HAVE BEEN TROUBLESOME FOR THE ISRAELIS WHO WANTED TO KEEP THE LEBANON HOSTAGE ISSUE ENTIRELY SEPARATE ITS CONFLICT WITH THE PALESTINIANS. THIS COULD EXPLAIN THE SURREPTITIOUS MANNER IN WHICH HILAL WAS TAKEN OFF THE PLANE.

THE MILITARY STATEMENT SAID: ''THE RETURN OF SAMIR ASSAD'S B CONCLUDES THIS CHAPTER REGARDING THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCE'S MIA AND POWS IN LEBANON.''

IT THANKED THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE RED CROSS.

THE ISRAELI SEGMENT OF THE DRUSE COMMUNITY IS LOYAL TO THE

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BR004A
        R U APW001 BBB INT
^ISRAEL-HOSTAGES, 6TH LD, CORRECTION
^TEL AVIV: TO CORRECT NAME OF PALESTINIAN GROUP, SUB FOR 3RD GRAF
((THE DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE...COME
HOME.))
   THE DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE, WHICH
HELD ASSAD'S BODY, HANDED OVER THE REMAINS ON CONDITION ISRAEL
ALLOWED HILAL TO COME HOME.
^THE PLANE, 4TH GRAF
0201G 13 09 91



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RR0087

R M JMD598 JER 1NTJ 888 WAT NIC

^ISRAEL-HOSTAGES, 5TH LD

^URGENT

^EDS: UPDATES WITH ARMY SAYING BODY IN ISRAELI CUSTODY= QUOTES FROM FAMILIES= DEPORTATION BACKGROUND= CORRECTS SPELLING OF HILAL

^ISRAEL GETS BACK BODY, LETS PALESTINIAN DEPORTEE RETURN

JERUSALEM (AP) - ISRAEL GOT BACK THE BODY OF A MISSING SOLDIER THURSDAY AND ALLOWED A PALESTINIAN DEPORTEE TO COME HOME, THE MILITARY COMMAND SAID THURSDAY.

THE TRADEOFF WAS THE SECOND PUBLIC STEP IN AN APPARENT MULTI-STAGE DEAL BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ITS ARAB FOES IN LEBANON WHICH, IF SUCCESSFUL, WOULD LEAD TO FREEDOM FOR THE WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON.

THE ARMY SAID ISRAEL GOT BACK THE CORPSE OF SGT. SAMIR ASSAD, MISSING IN LEBANON SINCE APRIL 1983. A STATEMENT SAID ISRAEL WAS ALLOWING ALI ABU HILAL, A PALESTINIAN ACTIVIST EXPELLED FROM THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK IN 1986, TO RETURN.

AN ISRAELI PLANE CARRYING THE BODY -- AS WELL AS HILAL, ACCORDING TO A PALESTINIAN SPOKESMAN -- WAS EXPECTED TO LAND NEAR TEL AVIV EARLY FRIDAY. THE ARRANGEMENT WAS WORKED OUT BY THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS IN VIENNA.

ASSAD WAS KIDNAPPED NEAR THE SOUTHERN LEBANESE PORT OF SIDON AND HELD BY THE SYRIAN-BACKED DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE. THE DFLP SAID HE WAS LATER KILLED IN AN ISRAELI BOMBING RAID. HE WAS 22 WHEN HE WENT MISSING.

HILAL IS A DFLP ACTIVIST FROM ABU DIS, A WEST BANK VILLAGE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF JERUSALEM. THE MILITARY STATEMENT SAID HIS RETURN WAS ''A GESTURE'' BY ISRAEL, ''CONDITIONED UPON HIS AGREEMENT NOT TO BREAK THE LAW IN THE FUTURE.''

IT IS RARE FOR ISRAEL TO RETURN ANY OF THE MORE THAN 1,300 PALESTINIANS IT HAS DEPORTED FROM THE ARAB TERRITORIES IT CAPTURED IN THE 1967. USUALLY THE DEPORTEES WERE ACCUSED OF ANTI-ISRAELI ACTIVITIES.

THE DFLP'S DEMAND MAY HAVE BEEN TROUBLESOME FOR THE ISRAELIS, WHO WANTED TO KEEP THE LEBANON HOSTAGE ISSUE ENTIRELY SEPARATE FROM ITS CONFLICT WITH THE PALESTINIANS.

THE STATEMENT SAID: ''THE RETURN OF SAMIR ASSAD'S BODY CONCLUDES THIS CHAPTER REGARDING THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCE'S MIAS AND POWS IN LEBANON.''

IT THANKED THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE RED CROSS.

ON WEDNESDAY, ISRAEL RELEASED 51 DETAINEES AND HANDED OVER THE BODIES OF NINE LEBANESE GUERRILLAS AFTER RECEIVING PROOF THAT ONE OF ITS MISSING MEN WAS DEAD.

INFORMATION ON THE FATE OF THE

ISRAEL HAD INSISTED ON RELIABLE INFORMATION ON THE FATE OF THE OTHER SIX, INCLUDING ASSAD, BEFORE IT WOULD RELEASE MORE ARABS. ON WEDNESDAY, ISRAELI AUTHORITIES SAID THEY EXPECTED FURTHER RELEASES TO GO IN STAGES.

ASSAD BELONGS TO THE DRUSE COMMUNITY, AN OFFSHOOT OF ISLAM WHOSE ISRAELI ADHERENTS ARE LOYAL TO THE JEWISH STATE AND ARE CONSCRIPTED INTO ITS ARMY.

ASSAD'S BROTHER, YUSSUF, SAID THE FAMILY WAS DEVASTATED WHEN THE ARMY INFORMED THE FAMILY THAT THEIR SON WAS DEFINITELY DEAD.

''MOTHER TOOK IT VERY BADLY. DESPITE EVERYTHING SHE LIVED IN HOPE THAT ONE DAY SHE WOULD SEE SAMIR BACK AND ALIVE, AND ALL THE HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS SHE DEVELOPED OVER THE YEARS HAVE SUDDENLY COLLAPSED,'' ASSAD SAID AT THE FAMILY HOME IN THE GALILEE VILLAGE OF BEIT JANN.

IN ABU DIS, HILAL'S HOME TOWN, THE MOOD WAS JUBILANT. THE FAMILY PREPARED BANNERS SAYING ''WELCOME HOME, O HERO ALI ABU HILAL.''

''WE ARE VERY HAPPY THAT HE IS RETURNING HOME AND WE HOPE THAT PEACE WILL PREVAIL IN THE WHOLE WORLD. WE STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT,'' SAID HIS NIECE, AIDA ABU HILAL.

HIS BROTHER, MAHMOUD, SAID: ''MY HAPPINESS IS STILL INCOMPLETE. I STILL HAVE TO SEE HIM. WE ARE ALL IN SUSPENSE.''

DEPUTY FOREIGN, 13TH GRAF SEE [illegible]

[illegible] 09 91

RR0025

R N AMR504 JER INTL 586 NAT NIC

^ISRAEL-HOSTAGES, 4TH LD

^URGENT

^EDS: UPDATES WITH OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

^ISRAEL GETS BACK BODY, LETS PALESTINIAN DEPORTEE RETURN

JERUSALEM (AP) - ISRAEL IS GETTING BACK THE BODY OF A SOLDIER MISSING IN LEBANON AND ALLOWING A PALESTINIAN DEPORTEE TO COME HOME, THE MILITARY COMMAND SAID THURSDAY.

THE TRADEOFF WAS THE SECOND PUBLIC STEP IN AN APPARENT MULTI-STAGE DEAL WHICH, IF SUCCESSFUL, WOULD LEAD TO FREEDOM FOR THE WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON.

THE ARMY SAID ISRAEL WAS GETTING BACK THE CORPSE OF SGT. SAMIR ASSAD, MISSING SINCE APRIL 1983. A STATEMENT SAID ISRAEL WAS ALLOWING ALI ABDULLAH MOHAMMED HALLAL, A PALESTINIAN ACTIVIST EXPELLED FROM THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK IN 1986, TO RETURN.

^MORE (ME)

01210 13 09 91

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NRV082

R W JRAEC3 JER INTS 366 WHT NID

^ISRAEL-HOSTAGES, 4TH LD, 1ST ADD

^JERUSALEM: TO RETURN.

THE STATEMENT GAVE NO DETAILS ON THE MECHANICS OR TIMING OF THE OPERATION BUT IT WAS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED EARLY FRIDAY. IT WAS ARRANGED BY THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS IN VIENNA.

ASSAD WAS KIDNAPPED NEAR THE SOUTHERN LEBANESE PORT OF SIDON AND HELD BY THE SYRIAN-BACKED DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE. THE DFLP SAID HE WAS LATER KILLED IN AN ISRAELI BOMBING RAID. HE WAS 22 WHEN HE WENT MISSING.

HALLAL IS A DFLP ACTIVIST WHOSE HOME IS IN ABU DIS, A VILLAGE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF JERUSALEM. THE MILITARY STATEMENT SAID HIS RETURN WAS ''A GESTURE'' BY ISRAEL, ''CONDITIONED UPON HIS AGREEMENT NOT TO BREAK THE LAW IN THE FUTURE.''

THE STATEMENT SAID: ''THE RETURN OF SAMIR ASSAD'S BODY CONCLUDES THIS CHAPTER REGARDING THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCE'S MIAS AND POWS IN LEBANON.''

IT THANKED THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE RED CROSS.

ON WEDNESDAY, ISRAEL RELEASED 51 DETAINEES AND HANDED OVER THE BODIES OF NINE LEBANESE GUERRILLAS AFTER RECEIVING PROOF THAT ONE OF ITS MISSING MEN WAS DEAD.

ISRAEL HAD INSISTED ON RELIABLE INFORMATION ON THE FATE OF THE OTHER SIX, INCLUDING ASSAD, BEFORE IT WOULD RELEASE MORE ARABS. ON WEDNESDAY, ISRAELI AUTHORITIES SAID THEY EXPECTED FURTHER RELEASES TO GO IN STAGES.

ASSAD BELONGS TO THE DRUSE COMMUNITY, AN OFFSHOOT OF ISLAM WHOSE ISRAELI ADHERENTS ARE LOYAL TO THE JEWISH STATE AND ARE CONSCRIPTED INTO ITS ARMY.

ISRAEL HAS DEPORTED MORE THAN 1,300 PALESTINIANS FROM THE TERRITORIES IT CAPTURED IN THE 1967 WAR. USUALLY THE REASON GIVEN IS THAT THEY WERE FOMENTING ANTI-ISRAELI ACTIVITY.

DEPUTY FOREIGN, 13TH GRAF 3RD LD

01200 13 09 91

AA0368

R H TLB206 JER INTJ 000 NAT MIC

^ISRAEL-HOSTAGES, 3RD LD-WRITETHRU

^EDS: UPDATES WITH MORE ARENS, NETANYAHU QUOTES, WRAPS UP FOR AMS

JERUSALEM (AP) - HOPES RAN HIGH AMONG ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS THURSDAY THAT THE NEXT STAGE OF A LEBANON HOSTAGE DEAL WILL BE THE EXCHANGE OF A DEAD ISRAELI SERVICEMAN FOR THE HOMECOMING OF AN EXILED PALESTINIAN.

WHILE ISRAELI OFFICIALS WOULD GIVE NO INFORMATION ON THE NEXT MOVE, THEY DID NOT RULE OUT SUCH A TRADE, WHICH HAS BEEN SUGGESTED IN ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS.

ASKED IF A BODY COULD ARRIVE THURSDAY, DEFENSE MINISTER MOSHE ARENS SAID: ''I SUGGEST WE SIMPLY WAIT A FEW HOURS TO FIND OUT IF THAT'S THE CASE.''

SUCH AN EXCHANGE WOULD BE ANOTHER STEP TOWARD AN OVERALL SWAP INVOLVING 11 WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON, MORE THAN 300 PRISONERS HELD BY ISRAEL AND ITS MILITIA ALLY IN SOUTH LEBANON, AND SIX ISRAELI SERVICEMEN MISSING IN LEBANON.

ON WEDNESDAY, ISRAEL RELEASED 51 DETAINEES AND HANDED OVER THE BODIES OF NINE LEBANESE GUERRILLAS AFTER RECEIVING PROOF THAT ONE OF ITS MISSING MEN WAS DEAD.

ISRAEL INSISTS ON RELIABLE INFORMATION ON THE FATE OF THE OTHER SIX, INCLUDING ASSAD, BEFORE IT WILL RELEASE MORE ARABS. ON WEDNESDAY, ISRAELI AUTHORITIES SAID THEY EXPECTED FURTHER RELEASES TO GO IN STAGES.

NEWSPAPER AND RADIO REPORTS SAID THE CORPSE TO BE RETURNED WAS THAT OF SAMIR ASSAD, WHO DISAPPEARED IN LEBANON IN APRIL 1983.

THE YEDIOTH AHRONOTH DAILY SAID ISRAEL HAS NEGOTIATED WITH ASSAD'S CAPTORS, THE PRO-SYRIAN DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE, FOR THE SOLDIER'S RETURN.

THE GROUP HAS CLAIMED ASSAD DIED IN AN ISRAELI AIR RAID 14 MONTHS AFTER HIS CAPTURE. ISRAELI OFFICIALS DISBELIEVE THIS, BUT HAVE NOT SAID WHAT THEY THINK HAPPENED TO ASSAD.

ASSAD BELONGS TO THE DRUSE COMMUNITY, AN OFFSHOOT OF ISLAM WHOSE ISRAELI ADHERENTS ARE LOYAL TO THE JEWISH STATE AND ARE CONSCRIPTED INTO ITS ARMY.

EXPECTATIONS RAN HIGH AMONG PALESTINIANS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES THURSDAY THAT IN EXCHANGE FOR THE RETURN OF ASSAD'S BODY, A DFLP ACTIVIST DEPORTED BY ISRAEL WOULD BE ALLOWED TO RETURN HOME.

ISRAEL HAS DEPORTED MORE THAN 1,300 PALESTINIANS FROM THE TERRITORIES IT CAPTURED IN THE 1967 WAR. USUALLY THE REASON GIVEN IS THAT THEY WERE FOMENTING ANTI-ISRAELI ACTIVITY.

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU INDICATED THURSDAY THAT INFORMATION ON EACH MISSING SOLDIER COULD BE REWARDED WITH MORE PRISONER RELEASES.

NETANYAHU TOLD THE AMERICAN TELEVISION NETWORK CBS THAT ISRAEL WAS READY TO RELEASE ALL LEBANESE PRISONERS IN A SINGLE SWAP.

''FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, WE WOULD LIKE TO DO IT IN ONE FELL SWOOP, BUT THE OTHER SIDE APPARENTLY WANTS TO DO IT PIECEMEAL. THAT'S ALL RIGHT. WE DON'T CARE HOW IT'S DONE AS LONG AS WE GET OUR PEOPLE BACK,'' NETANYAHU SAID.

ARENS SAID THE FIRST GROUP OF PRISONERS WAS RELEASED TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM IN THE DEAL BEING WORKED OUT BY U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR.

''WE THOUGHT IT WAS RIGHT TO MAKE THIS GESTURE ... IN ORDER TO HELP THE U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM,'' ARENS SAID.

HE ALSO REITERATED THAT IRAN AND SYRIA HELD THE KEY TO SOLVING THE HOSTAGE PROBLEM. ''I THINK THE IRANIANS AND THE SYRIANS ARE THE KEY TO THE RELEASE OF HOSTAGES, OF LOCATING THE MISSING IN ACTION. THE IRANIANS AND SYRIANS WANT THE HOSTAGES, PRISONERS RELEASED,'' ARENS SAID.

SNL-ME

2216G 12 09 91

RR0325

Swap S.L

R I JMA249 INTJ 888 NAT JER

@ISRAEL-HOSTAGES

@REPORT: HEZBOLLAH APPROACHES SLA FOR LIMITED PRISONER EXCHANGE

JERUSALEM (AP) - LEBANOPQPS PRO-IRANIAN SHIITE HEZBOLLAH GROUP HAS APPROACHED THE ISRAELI-FINANCED SOUTH LEBANON ARMY WITH AN OFFER FOR A LIMITED PRISONER SWAP, A NEWSPAPER REPORTED FRIDAY.

THE HEZBOLLAH, BELIEVED TO BE AN UMBRELLA GROUP FOR THE WESTERN HOSTAGE-HOLDERS IN LEBANON, PROPOSED THE SLA FREE SHIITES IT HOLDS IN ITS AL KHIAM PRISON FOR SLA MILITIAMEN HELD BY HEZBOLLAH, THE DAILY HADASHOT SAID.

THE PAPER BASED ITS REPORT ON SOURCES IN THE SLA.

THERE WAS NO MENTION OF FREEING WESTERNERS OR ISRAELIS IN THE DEAL AND SLA COMMANDER GEN. ANTOINE LAHAD REPORTEDLY TOLD THE HEZBOLLAH THAT ANY EXCHANGE WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE ALL SLA MILITIAMEN AND ISRAEL I SOLDIERS MISSING IN LEBANON.

A MAN ANSWERING THE PHONE AT LAHAD'S HOME DENIED THE REPORT, ADDING: ''WHEN THEY RELEASE ISRAELIS AND OUR SOLDIERS THERE WILL BE SOMETHING, NOW EVERYTHING IS JUST TALK.''

THE MAN REFUSED TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF.

ISRAEL AND THE SLA, WHICH JOINTLY PATROL ISRAEL'S SELF-DESIGNED 1'BBCDRSOMEZ0DB'LEINNSBBTBEIBBABBS WHOSE RELEASE HAS BEEN DEMANDED BY THE SHIITE FACTIONS HOLDING THE WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON.

ISRAEL INSISTS IT RECEIVE AUTHORITATIVE INFORMATION ABOUT ITS SEVEN SERVICEMEN MISSING IN LEBANON BEFORE IT RELEASES ANY OF THE PRISONERS UNTIL ITS CONTROL. LAHAD WANTS THE DEAL TO INCLUDE NINE MISSING SLA MILITIAMEN, OF WHOM THREE ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY HEZBOLLAH.

A WEEK AGO, THE SLA RELEASED TWO SUNNI MUSLIMS IN RETURN FOR A MILITIA COMMANDER HELD BY SUNNI RADICALS, HADASHOT SAID. AT THE TIME, A MAN AT LAHAD'S HOME CONFIRMED THE RELEASE, BUT DENIED IT WAS LINKED TO NEGOTIATIONS ON A POSSIBLE HOSTAGES-PRISONER SWAP.

ON FRIDAY, THE MAN ANSWERING LAHAD'S PHONE CALLED THE REPORTED SWAP ''JUST TALK IN THE MEDIA.''

@GA-SMS

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U I NC0053 INTJ 888 NAT NIC
ÞMIDDLE EAST-HOSTAGES, 6TH LD-WRITETHRU
ÞKIDNAPPERS WANT MORE ARAB RELEASES BEFORE HOSTAGE SWAP
ÞEDS: AMS. UPDATES WITH STATEMENT BY SHIITE MINISTER.
ÞBY MOHAMMED SALAM=
ÞASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

BEIRUT, LEBANON (AP) - THE ISLAMIC JIHAD HOSTAGE-HOLDING GROUP SAID THURSDAY THAT IT WAS PREPARED TO FREE WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON BUT THAT ISRAEL'S RELEASE OF ARAB DETAINEES WAS NOT ENOUGH TO MAKE THE HOSTAGE-PRISONER SWAP GO FORWARD.

THE MESSAGE FROM THE PRO-IRANIAN SHIITE MUSLIM FACTION CAME IN A STATEMENT ACCOMPANIED BY A PICTURE OF MISSING AMERICAN TERRY ANDERSON, THE LONGEST-HELD HOSTAGE, TO AUTHENTICATE IT.

THE STATEMENT, DESPITE ITS DEMAND FOR MORE ACTION FROM ISRAEL, SEEMED TO ADD TO OPTIMISM THAT THE HOSTAGE CRISIS MAY BE ENDING IN A STEP-BY-STEP RELEASE OF ARAB PRISONERS HELD BY ISRAEL, ISRAELI POWS, AND FINALLY THE 11 WESTERNERS MISSING IN LEBANON.

BUT FIGURES INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE - ISRELIS AND LEBANESE SHIITES - SAID THAT THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES BARGAINING OVER THE HOSTAGES WAS STILL GOING ON.

''THERE IS DEFINITELY A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE ABOUT THE ISSUE AND THERE ARE HUSH-HUSH, BACKSTAGE EFFORTS BEING EXERTED,'' SAID ABDULLA AL-AMIN, A SHIITE MEMBER OF THE LEBANESE CABINET.

WHILE THE ISLAMIC JIHAD STATEMENT SAID ISRAEL'S RELEASE OF 51 ARABS AND RETURN OF NINE BODIES WAS ''INCOMPLETE,'' IT URGED U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR TO PERSIST IN TRYING TO ARRANGE A PRISONER SWAP WITH ISRAEL.

IN THE IRANIAN CAPITAL OF TEHRAN, PEREZ DE CUELLAR SAID HE BELIEVED ISRAEL'S FREEING OF PRISONERS COULD BE THE BEGINNING OF A SOLUTION TO THE HOSTAGE CRISIS.

BUT HE SAID IT WAS ''NOT RIGHT TO LINK TOO STRONGLY THE QUESTION OF THE MISSING ISRAELIS WITH THE RELEASE OF THE WESTERNERS. THERE IS NOT NECESSARILY A LINK BETWEEN THE TWO THINGS.''

IN ISRAEL, NEWS REPORTS SAID THAT THE BODY OF ONE OF ISRAEL'S SEVEN MISSING SOLDIERS, DRUSE SGT. SAMIR ASSAD, WOULD BE RETURNED SOON.

SUCH A STEP COULD MEAN THAT ISRAEL WOULD RELEASE MORE PRISONERS WHOSE FREEDOM HAS BEEN DEMANDED BY SHIITE MUSLIM KIDNAPPERS FOR RELEASE OF THE 11 WESTERNERS MISSING IN BEIRUT.

BUT ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER MOSHE ARENS REFUSED TO CONFIRM THE NEWS REPORTS ON ASSAD'S BODY. HE SAID HE WANTED TO ''WAIT A FEW HOURS'' TO SEE IF IT WAS TRUE.

ISRAEL HAS SAID IT WANTS INFORMATION ON ALL ITS MISSING SOLDIERS BEFORE RELEASING ANY MORE LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN PRISONERS.

WEDNESDAY RELEASE OF PRISONERS AND RETURN OF THE BODIES OF NINE SHIITE FIGHTERS CAME AFTER ISRAEL SAID IT GOT PROOF THAT ONE OF THE MISSING SEVEN, REHAMIM ALSHEIKH, WAS DEAD.

IN ITS STATEMENT THURSDAY, ISLAMIC JIHAD, OR ISLAMIC HOLY WAR, SAID: ''WE ARE FULLY PREPARED TO EXTEND THE REQUIRED SUPPORT FOR HIM (PEREZ DE CUELLAR) TO REACH THE REQUIRED COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION.''

''AS WE CONSIDER THIS (WEDNESDAY'S) RELEASE OPERATION A POSITIVE STEP, WE AT THE SAME TIME CONSIDER IT AN INCOMPLETE ONE UNLESS IT CULMINATES IN FREEING ALL OUR IMPRISONED BRETHREN IN THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY IN EUROPE AND THE JAILS OF THE ZIONIST ENEMY,'' HE STATEMENT ADDED.

ÞMORE
1753G 12 09 91

RR[illegible]211

U I ACB060 INTJ 888 NAT NIC

S.L.

^MIDDLE EAST-HOSTAGES, 7TH LD

^KIDNAPPERS WANT MORE ARAB RELEASED BEFORE HOSTAGE SWAP

^EDS: UPDATES WITH REPORT ISRAEL SOLDIER'S BODY MAY BE RETURNED.

^BY MOHAMMED SALAM=

^ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

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BUT FIGURES INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE - ISRAELIS AND LEBANESE SHIITES - SAID THAT THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES BARGAINING OVER THE HOSTAGES WAS STILL GOING ON.

''THERE IS DEFINITELY A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE ABOUT THE ISSUE AND THERE ARE HUSH-HUSH, BACKSTAGE EFFORTS BEING EXERTED,'' SAID ABDULLA AL-AMIN, A SHIITE MEMBER OF THE LEBANESE CABINET.

IN DAMASCUS, A SENIOR PALESTINIAN OFFICIAL SAID THE BODY OF A MISSING ISRAELI SOLDIER HAD BEEN FLOWN TO VIENNA IN READINESS FOR HANDING IT OVER TO ISRAEL THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS.

QAISS AL SAMARRAI, A MEMBER OF THE DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE'S DECISION-MAKING POLITBURO, SAID TALKS BETWEEN PALESTINIAN AND ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVES UNDER ICRC AUSPICES WERE STILL UNDERWAY IN THE AUSTRIAN CAPITAL.

''WE EXPECT TO REACH A FINAL AGREEMENT REGARDING THE REPATRIATION OF THE BODY OF SGT. SAMIR ASSAD IN RETURN FOR WRITTEN GUARANTEES THAT COMRADE ALI ABU HILAL WOULD BE ALLOWED TO RETURN HOME,'' SAMARRAI SAID.

SUCH A STEP COULD INDUCE ISRAEL TO FREE MORE OF THE MORE THAN 300 PRISONERS HELD BY IT AND A PROXY MILITIA IN LEBANON. KIDNAPPERS HAVE DEMANDED FREEDOM FOR THE ARAB DETAINEES IN EXCHANGE FOR RELEASING THE WESTERN HOSTAGES.

ALI ABU HILAL IS A MEMBER OF THE DFLP'S POLITBURO WHO WAS DEPORTED FROM JERUSALEM IN 1986, SAID SAMARRAI. ASSAD WAS CAPTURED IN LEBANON IN 1983. THE DFLP HAS SAID HE WAS KILLED IN AN ISRAELI AIR RAID WHILE IN CAPTIVITY, BUT ISRAEL HAS DISPUTED THAT.

THE MESSAGE FROM THE PRO-IRANIAN ISLAMIC JIHAD IN BEIRUT CAME IN A STATEMENT ACCOMPANIED BY A PICTURE OF MISSING AMERICAN TERRY ANDERSON, THE LONGEST-HELD HOSTAGE, TO AUTHENTICATE IT.

WHILE THE SHIITE FACTION'S STATEMENT SAID ISRAEL'S RELEASE OF 51 ARABS AND RETURN OF NINE BODIES WAS ''INCOMPLETE,'' IT URGED U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR TO PERSIST IN TRYING TO ARRANGE A PRISONER SWAP WITH ISRAEL.

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BUT HE SAID IT WAS ''NOT RIGHT TO LINK TOO STRONGLY THE QUESTION OF THE MISSING ISRAELIS WITH THE RELEASE OF THE WESTERNERS. THERE IS NOT NECESSARILY A LINK BETWEEN THE TWO THINGS.''

IN ISRAEL, NEWS REPORTS SAID THAT THE BODY OF ASSAD WOULD BE RETURNED SOON.

BUT ISRAELI, 11TH GRAF MIDDLE EAST-HOSTAGES 6TH LD

^MI-GGL

1905G 12 09 91

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RR0234
U I NCB055 INTJ NAT 888 NIC
^MIDDLE EAST-HOSTAGES, 6TH LD-1ST ADD
^BEIRUT: STATEMENT ADDED.

THE STATEMENT APPARENTLY WAS A REFERENCE TO SHIITE AIR PIRATE HUSSEIN HARIRI, HELD IN SWITZERLAND SINCE JULY 1987, AND BROTHERS MOHAMMED ALI HAMADI AND ABBAS HAMADI, ALSO SHIITES WHO HAVE BEEN JAILED IN GERMANY SINCE 1987.

HARIRI WAS CONVICTED OF KILLING A FRENCHMAN ABOARD AN AIR AFRIQUE DC-10 JETLINER HE HAD HIJACKED WHILE ON A FLIGHT FROM ROME TO PARIS, IN AN ATTEMPT TO FREE THE HAMADI BROTHERS.

MOHAMMED ALI HAMADI, ARRESTED AT FRANKFURT AIRPORT ON JAN. 13, 1987, IS SERVING A LIFE SENTENCE FOR MURDER AND AIR PIRACY IN THE HIJACKING OF THE AMERICAN TWA JETLINER TO LEBANON IN 1985.

ABBAS HAMADI, ALSO ARRESTED AT FRANKFURT AIRPORT JAN. 26, 1987, AND WAS SENTENCED IN 1988 TO 13 YEARS IN PRISON FOR HOSTAGE-TAKING IN BEIRUT.

THE HAMADIS HAVE EMERGED AS A PROBLEM BEFORE IN A POSSIBLE PRISONER SWAP SINCE THEY WERE CONVICTED OF CRIMES, UNLIKE MOST OF THE PRISONERS HELD BY ISRAEL.

THEIR ELDER BROTHER, ABDUL HADI, HEADS THE SECURITY APPARATUS OF THE PRO-IRANIAN FACTION HEZBOLLAH, OR PARTY OF GOD, WHICH IS BELIEVED TO BE THE PARENT ORGANIZATION FOR EXTREMIST FACTIONS HOLDING MOST OF THE 11 WESTERNERS MISSING IN LEBANON.

THE 30-LINE ISLAMIC JIHAD STATEMENT WAS GIVEN TO THE LEBANESE NEWSPAPER AN-NAHAR AND A WESTERN NEWS AGENCY IN BEIRUT. THE PICTURE OF ANDERSON WAS SIMILAR TO THE ONE RELEASED BY THE GROUP AUGUST 6, WHICH WAS THE FIRST TO SHOW A CLEAN-SHAVEN ANDERSON IN PROFILE IN MORE THAN SIX YEARS OF CAPTIVITY.

ANDERSON, 43, CHIEF MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, WAS KIDNAPPED MARCH 16, 1985.

ISLAMIC JIHAD'S STATEMENT CAME ABOUT 14 HOURS AFTER ANOTHER GROUP, THE REVOLUTIONARY JUSTICE ORGANIZATION, SAID THE RETURN OF THE 51 PRISONERS AND NINE BODIES RAISED ''HAPPY ENDING'' HOPES FOR THE WESTERN HOSTAGES.

THE GROUP ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT 77-YEAR-OLD BRITISH HOSTAGE JACK MANN WAS ''ALIVE AND IN GOOD PHYSICAL SHAPE'' MORE THAN TWO YEARS AFTER HE DISAPPEARED IN BEIRUT.

BESIDES MANN AND ANDERSON, THE OTHER MISSING WESTERNS ARE FOUR AMERICANS, ON BRITON, TWO GERMANS AND AN ITALIAN.

^NS-GGL
1757G 12 09 91

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RR0130 Swap. 5 6

U I JNA533 INTJ 333 NAT JER NIC
^ISRAEL-HOSTAGES, 1ST LD
^ISRAEL GETS BACK BODY, BRINGS HOME PALESTINIAN EXILE
^EDS: UPDATES WITH FUNERAL PLANNED, DENIAL ON ''GOOD BEHAVIOR'' AGREEMENT, ANGRY EDITORIAL
^BY ARIEH O'SULLIVAN=
^ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL (AP) - AN ISRAELI PLANE BROUGHT HOME AN EXILED PALESTINIAN AND THE BODY OF A MISSING SOLDIER EARLY FRIDAY IN A DEAL THAT COULD IMPROVE THE CHANCES OF FREEING WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON.

AN UNMARKED ISRAELI BOEING 707 LANDED AT AN AIR FORCE BASE NEXT TO BEN-GURION INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT NEAR TEL AVIV.

IT BROUGHT THE REMAINS OF SGT. SAMIR ASSAD, MISSING IN LEBANON SINCE 1983, AND ALI ABU HILAL, DEPORTED FROM HIS WEST BANK HOME IN 1986 BECAUSE OF HIS ACTIVITIES IN A SYRIAN-BACKED GUERRILLA MOVEMENT, THE DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE.

ASSAD, AN ISRAELI DRUSE, WAS TO BURIED FRIDAY IN HIS HOME VILLAGE OF BEIT JANN IN THE NORTHERN GALILEE AT 1 P.M. (1100 GMT).

THE DFLP, WHICH HELD ASSAD'S REMAINS, HANDED THEM OVER ON CONDITION ISRAEL ALLOWED ABU HILAL TO COME HOME. ISRAEL MADE HIM SIGN A PROMISE ''NOT TO BREAK THE LAW,'' THE ARMY SAID. ABU HILAL SAID FRIDAY, HOWEVER, HE SIGNED NO SUCH AGREEMENT.

WHILE A SOLEMN MILITARY CEREMONY WAS HELD FOR ASSAD ON THE TARMAC, HILAL WAS DRIVEN IN A RED CROSS VAN TO HIS VILLAGE OF ABU DIS, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF JERUSALEM, AND WALKED INTO A TEARFUL, ECSTATIC WELCOME.

HIS FATHER FELL ABOUT HIS SHOULDERS, HUGGING HIM AND WEEPING. HIS MOTHER CRIED: ''MY SON, YOU CAME BACK''

''I FEEL LIKE A NEWBORN CHILD... BUT I ALSO FEEL I'M A STRONG MAN RETURNING TO MY HOMELAND,'' SAID HILAL, 36. ''I HOPE THAT OTHER DEPORTED PALESTINIANS WILL RETURN. IT IS MY DREAM SINCE THE MOMENT I LEFT THE COUNTRY.''

ISRAELI TROOPS MADE VILLAGERS REMOVE THEIR WELCOMING BANNERS, BUT SAID THEY DID NOT WANT TO PROVOKE VIOLENCE, AND THE EVENT PASSED PEACEFULLY.

IT IS RARE FOR ISRAEL TO ALLOW THE RETURN OF ANY OF THE MORE THAN 1,300 PALESTINIANS IT HAS DEPORTED FROM THE ARAB TERRITORIES IT CAPTURED IN THE 1967 MIDDLE EAST WAR. MOST OF THE DEPORTED ARABS WERE ACCUSED OF ANTI-ISRAELI ACTIVITIES.

THE DFLP'S DEMAND MAY HAVE BEEN TROUBLESOME FOR THE ISRAELIS, WHO WANTED TO KEEP THE LEBANON HOSTAGE ISSUE ENTIRELY SEPARATE FROM ITS CONFLICT WITH THE PALESTINIANS. THIS COULD EXPLAIN THE SURREPTITIOUS MANNER IN WHICH HILAL WAS TAKEN OFF THE PLANE.

THE HEBREW DAILY HAARETZ PUBLISHED AN ANGRY EDITORIAL FRIDAY WARNING ISRAEL NOT TO BE TOO SOFT IN NEGOTIATIONS.

''AS MUCH AS IT SOUNDS SELFISH, ISRAEL IS INTERESTED IN THE WESTERN HOSTAGES LESS THAN ITS OWN CAPTIVES AND MISSING PEOPLE,'' THE EDITORIAL SAID. ''THESE PRICIPLES - LIVING FOR LIVING, DEAD FOR DEAD AND BUSINESS ONLY IN CASH - ARE THE PRINCIPLES THAT SHOULD GUIDE THOSE WHO ARE IN CHARGE OF CONDUCTING THE NEGOTIATIONS.''

THE AIRCRAFT, 11TH GRAF ISRAEL-HOSTAGES
^EAP

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Swap. S. L

U I FKA155 PAR 200 000U INT JER NIC

^FRANCE-ISRAEL-HOSTAGES

^SHAMIR SAYS HE HOPES EXCHANGE LEADS TO HOSTAGE SOLUTION

PARIS (AP) - ISRAELI PREMIER YITZHAK SHAMIR SAID FRIDAY THAT HE HOPES THE EXCHANGE OF AN EXILED PALESTINIAN FOR THE REMAINS OF AN ISRAELI SOLDIER MEANS AN END TO THE LEBANESE HOSTAGE SITUATION IS DRAWING NEAR.

THE EXCHANGE SHOULD MARK ''A START TOWARD THE LIBERATION OF ALL THE HOSTAGES AND PRISONERS WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED,'' SHAMIR TOLD REPORTERS AT A MEETING HELD BY THE FRANCE-ISRAEL ASSOCIATION.

''I HOPE THAT IN A CERTAIN TIME -- WE ARE TOLD IT WILL TAKE TIME
-- WE WILL REACH A DEFINITIVE SOLUTION TO THIS TRAGIC PROBLEM,'' HE SAID, REFERRING TO WESTERN HOSTAGES AND ISRAELI SOLDIERS MISSING IN LEBANON.

THE EXCHANGE WAS PART OF A MULTI-TIERED DEAL BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ITS ARAB FOES IN LEBANON INVOLVING RELEASE OF ARAB PRISONERS UNDER ISRAELI CONTROL, THE MISSING ISRAELI SERVICEMEN AND THE 11 WESTERN HOSTAGES.

''IT IS A TRAGIC HUMAN PROBLEM FOR THE HOSTAGES AND ISRAELI SOLDIERS WHOSE FATES ARE NOT KNOWN ... AND THE FAMILIES WHO ASK THEMSELVES EVERY DAY WHAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT CAN DO TO REACH A SATISFYING SOLUTION,'' HE SAID.

SHAMIR IS IN PARIS FOR A CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC UNION, A FORUM OF CONSERVATIVE LEADERS, WHICH ENDS FRIDAY.

THE ISRAELI LEADER RESERVED COMMENT ON PRESIDENT BUSH'S ATTEMPT TO DELAY DLRS 10 BILLION IN LOAN GUARANTEES TO ISRAEL WHILE THE GROUNDWORK FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE IS WORKED OUT.

BUSH IS SEEKING TO DELAY THE LOAN GUARANTEES FOR 120 DAYS TO TRY TO GIVE SECRETARY OF STATE JAMES BAKER A CHANCE TO GET PLANNED MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS GOING.

ISRAEL BELIEVES THAT BUSH ALSO IS TRYING TO PUNISH THE JEWISH STATE FOR PERSISTING IN ITS DRIVE TO GREATLY INCREASE JEWISH SETTLEMENT IN THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP. THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION SAYS THE SETTLEMENTS ARE AN OBSTACLE TO PEACE, AND PALESTINIANS WORRY THAT THE INFLUX OF JEWS IS UNDERCUTTING THEIR GOAL OF CREATING AN INDEPENDENT STATE IN THE TERRITORIES.

''I HOPE THE UNITED STATES WILL FIND THE APPROPRIATE PATH TO GIVE US THIS AID,'' SHAMIR SAID. ''WE NEED THIS MONEY. WE NEED IT IMMEDIATELY IF POSSIBLE. BUT IT'S NOT OUR MONEY. WE MUST NEGOTIATE TO OBTAIN IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.''

SHAMIR IS TO MEET WITH BAKER IN ISRAEL ON MONDAY TO DISCUSS THE PLANNED PEACE CONFERENCE, WHICH HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED FOR NEXT MONTH.

FINAL PLANS HAVE NOT BEEN LAID FOR THE TALKS AS ISRAEL AND PALESTINIANS CANNOT AGREE ON THE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVES.

THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION DEMANDS THAT PALESTINIANS FROM ISRAELI-OCCUPIED EAST JERUSALEM TAKE PART, WHILE ISRAEL REJECTS THEM OR MEMBERS OF THE PLO AS NEGOTIATORS.

(TJ-VAR)

1210G 13 09 91

RR0235
U I NCB027 REPEAT INTJ NAT 888 JER
^MIDDLE EAST-HOSTAGES, 5TH LD
^KIDNAPPERS CALL PRISONER RELEASE 'INCOMPLETE STEP'
^EDS: INCORPORATES CONTENTS OF ISLAMIC JIHAD STATEMENT
^BY RODEINA KENAAN=
^ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

s.l.

BEIRUT, LEBANON (AP) - THE ISLAMIC JIHAD HOSTAGE-HOLDING GROUP CALLED THURSDAY ON U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR TO PERSIST IN SEEKING A COMPREHENSIVE SWAP OF WESTERN HOSTAGES AND ARAB PRISONERS HELD BY ISRAEL.

THE SHIITE MUSLIM GROUP CALLED WEDNESDAY'S RETURN BY ISRAEL OF 51 LEBANESE PRISONERS AND NINE BODIES OF FUNDAMENTALIST GUERRILLAS ''A POSITIVE ... BUT INCOMPLETE STEP.''

THE TYPEWRITTEN STATEMENT IN ARABIC WAS DELIVERED TO THE INDEPENDENT BEIRUT NEWSPAPER AN-NAHAR AND A WESTERN NEWS AGENCY ALONG WITH AN AUTHENTICATING BLACK-AND-WHITE PICTURE OF AMERICAN HOSTAGE TERRY ANDERSON.

^MORE

1513G 12 09 91

RR0222

U I NCB028 REPEAT NIC INTJ NAT 333

@MIDDLE EAST-HOSTAGES, 5TH LD-1ST ADD

@BEIRUT, LEBANON: TERRY ANDERSON

THE PICTURE WAS SIMILAR TO THE ONE RELEASED BY ISLAMIC JIHAD AUGUST 6, WHICH WAS THE FIRST TO SHOW A CLEAN-SHAVEN ANDERSON IN PROFILE IN MORE THAN SIX YEARS OF CAPTIVITY.

ANDERSON, 43, CHIEF MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, IS THE LONGEST-HELD FOREIGN HOSTAGE IN LEBANON. HE WAS KIDNAPPED MARCH 16, 1985.

''WE PAY WARM TRIBUTE TO THE IMMENSE EFFORTS EXERTED BY U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL MR. (PEREZ) DE CUELLAR AND CALL ON HIM TO PERSIST HIS EFFORTS TO REACH A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION FOR THE ISSUE OF THE PRISONERS AND THE HOSTAGES,'' THE STATEMENT SAID.

''WE ARE FULLY PREPARED TO EXTEND THE REQUIRED SUPPORT FOR HIM TO REACH THE REQUIRED COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION,'' THE 30-LINE STATEMENT ADDED.

''AT THE SAME TIME, WE CONSIDER (WEDNESDAY'S) RELEASE OPERATION A POSITIVE STEP. WE AT THE SAME TIME CONSIDER IT AN INCOMPLETE ONE UNLESS IT CULMINATES IN FREEING ALL OUR IMPRISONED BRETHREN IN THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY IN EUROPE AND THE JAILS OF THE ZIONIST ENEMY,'' THE STATEMENT ADDED.

@MORE

14340 12 09 91

RR0201
U I NCB030 INTJ NAT 338 NIC
♦MIDEAST-HOSTAGES, 5TH LD-2ND ADD
♦BEIRUT: STATEMENT ADDED.

THE STATEMENT WAS A CLEAR REFERENCE TO SHIITE AIR PIRATE HUSSEIN HARIRI, HELD IN SWITZERLAND SINCE JULY 1987, AND BROTHERS MOHAMMED ALI HAMADI AND ABBAS HAMADI, ALSO SHIITES WHO HAVE BEEN JAILED IN GERMANY SINCE 1987.

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MOHAMMED ALI HAMADI WAS ARRESTED AT FRANKFURT AIRPORT ON JAN. 13, 1987. HE IS SERVING A LIFE SENTENCE FOR MURDER AND AIR PIRACY IN THE HIJACKING OF THE AMERICAN TWA JETLINER TO LEBANON IN 1985.

A U.S. NAVY DIVER WAS KILLED IN THE ORDEAL AND 39 AMERICAN PASSENGERS WERE HELD HOSTAGE FOR 17 DAYS.

ABBAS HAMADI WAS ALSO ARRESTED AT FRANKFURT AIRPORT JAN. 26, 1987. IN 1988 HE WAS SENTENCED TO 13 YEARS IN PRISON FOR HOSTAGE-TAKING IN BEIRUT.

THE HAMADI'S ELDER BROTHER, ABDUL HADI, HEADS THE SECURITY APPARATUS OF THE PRO-IRANIAN FACTION HEZBOLLAH, OR PARTY OF GOD, WHICH IS THE PARENT ORGANIZATION FOR EXTREMIST FACTIONS HOLDING MOST OF THE 11 WESTERNERS MISSING IN LEBANON.

ISLAMIC JIHAD RELEASED BRITISH HOSTAGE JOHN MCCARTHY ON AUG. 8 WITH A LETTER HE DELIVERED TO PEREZ DE CUELLAR ASKING HIM TO TRY TO WORK OUT AN EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS TO GAIN FREEDOM FOR THE WESTERN HOSTAGES.

THE GROUP ADMITS HOLDING ANDERSON, FELLOW AMERICAN THOMAS SUTHERLAND AND TWO GERMAN CAPTIVES, HEINRICH STRUEBIG AND THOMAS KEMPTNER.

♦MORE
1333G 12 09 91

RR0217
U I NCB035 INTJ NAT 333 NIC
^MIDDLE EAST-HOSTAGES, 5TH LD-3RD ADD
^BEIRUT: THOMAS KEMPTNER

STATEMENTS MADE BY MCCARTHY AND FORMER IRISH HOSTAGE BRIAN KEENAN, WHO WAS RELEASED IN AUGUST LAST YEAR, INDICATED THAT ISLAMIC JIHAD ALSO HOLDS ANGLICAN CHURCH ENVOY TERRY WAITE.

WAITE, 52, OF STYAL, IN NORTH LONDON, DISAPPEARED JAN. 20, 1987, WHILE KEEPING A RENDEZVOUS WITH ISLAMIC JIHAD REPRESENTATIVES IN WEST BEIRUT.

THE GROUP'S STATEMENT THURSDAY HAD A LENGTHY INTRODUCTION OF RHETORIC, CONTENDING THAT ISRAEL ''UNDERSTANDS ONLY THE LANGUAGE OF THE BLOOD AND SWORD.''

IT CALLED UPON THE FREED PRISONERS TO ''CARRY ON IN THE PATH OF JIHAD (HOLY WAR) AND COMPLETE THE COURSE FOR WHICH THEY HAD BEEN ARRESTED, TORTURED AND JAILED UNTIL ISRAEL IS WIPED OUT OF EXISTENCE.''

ISLAMIC JIHAD'S STATEMENT CAME ABOUT 14 HOURS AFTER ANOTHER GROUP, THE REVOLUTIONARY JUSTICE ORGANIZATION, SAID THE RETURN OF THE 51 PRISONERS AND NINE BODIES RAISED ''HAPPY ENDING'' HOPES FOR THE WESTERN HOSTAGES.

THE GROUP ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT 77-YEAR-OLD BRITISH HOSTAGE JACK MANN WAS ''ALIVE AND IN GOOD PHYSICAL SHAPE'' MORE THAN TWO YEARS AFTER HE DISAPPEARED IN BEIRUT.

THE PRO-IRANIAN KIDNAPPERS AND ISRAEL AGREED THAT A GRADUAL RELEASE OF THE WESTERN HOSTAGES, MISSING ISRAELI SERVICEMEN AND ARABS HELD BY ISRAEL WAS IN THE WORKS, BUT IN A STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS.

ISRAEL, HOWEVER, INDICATED THAT THE SHIITES SHOULD MAKE THE FIRST MOVE.

AMID VOWS TO MAINTAIN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST ISRAEL AND CHANTS OF ISLAM'S WAR CRY OF ''ALLAHU AKBAR,'' OR GOD IS GREAT, HEZBOLLAH BURIED EIGHT OF THE DEAD GUERRILLAS IN SOUTH BEIRUT AND EAST LEBANON'S BEKAA VALLEY.

A DEAD PALESTINIAN, IDENTIFIED AS ALI NIMER KHALIL, WAS BURIED AT THE RASHIDIYEH REFUGEE CAMP IN SOUTH LEBANON. A STATEMENT FROM HEZBOLLAH'S ISLAMIC RESISTANCE SAID HE WAS KILLED IN AN ATTACK AGAINST ''THE JEWISH ENEMY'' IN SOUTH LEBANON IN 1985.

HEZBOLLAH SECRETARY-GENERAL SHEIK ABBAS MUSAWI AND THE PARTY'S REPUTED MENTOR, SHEIK MOHAMMED HUSSEIN FADLALLAH, PRESIDED OVER THE FUNERAL PROCESSION FOR FOUR OF THE DEAD HEZBOLLAH MEMBERS AT THE IMAM RIZA MOSQUE IN THE SOUTH BEIRUT SLUM OF BIR ABED.

THE TWO BLACK-TURBANED CLERGYMEN LED THE FUNERAL MARCH FROM THE MOSQUE TO THE CEMETERY IN THE NEARBY DISTRICT OF BOURJ EL-BARAJNEH.

''THE MARCH TO LIBERATE JERUSALEM SHALL CONTINUE. YOUR MARTYRDOM WOULD ACHIEVE ITS GOALS,'' THE ESTIMATED 2,000 MEN AND WOMEN SHOUTED AS THE BODIES, WRAPPED WHITE NYLON BAGS, WERE LOWERED INTO THE GROUND.

BEARDED YOUNG HEZBOLLAH MEMBERS ELBOWED THEIR WAY FORWARD TO WRITE THEIR NAMES ON THE COFFINS BEFORE THE BURIAL, INDICATING FERVENCY TO JOIN THEM IN MARTYRDOM.

FREEING THE, 7TH GRAF MIDDLE EAST-HOSTAGES 3RD LD
AMG-RK-GGL
1422G 12 09 91

AR0187

U I NCB026 BRT INTJ NAT 888 JER

^MIDDLE EAST-HOSTAGES, 4TH LD

^KIDNAPPERS RAISE HOPES OF HOSTAGE RELEASE

^EDS: UPDATES WITH STATAMENT FROM KIDNAPPERS WITH ANDERSON PICTURE

^BY RODEINA KENAAN=

^ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

BEIRUT, LEBANON (AP) - PRO-IRANIAN KIDNAPPERS RELEASED A PHOTOGRAPH OF AMERICAN HOSTAGE TERRY ANDERSON THURSDAY HOURS AFTER ANOTHER FACTION RAISED ''HAPPY ENDING'' HOPES FOR THE WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON.

THE PICTURE ACCOMPANIED A STATEMENT FROM ISLAMIC JIHAD, OR ISLAMIC HOLY WAR, AS AN AUTHENTICATING EVIDENCE.

THE ARABIC LANGUAGE STATEMENT WAS DELIVERED TO A WESTERN NEWS AGENCY OFFICE IN BEIRUT. CONTENTS OF THE STATEMENT AND DESCRIPTION OF ANDERSON'S PHOTOGRAPH WERE NOT AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY.

THE STATEMENT CAME HOURS AFTER THE REVOLUTIONARY JUSTICE ORGANIZATION ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT A BRITISH HOSTAGE, 77-YEAR-OLD JACK MANN, WAS ''ALIVE AND IN GOOD SHAPE,'' MORE THAN TWO YEARS AFTER HE DISAPPEARED IN BEIRUT.

THE REVOLUTIONARY JUSTICE STATEMENT CAME HOURS AFTER ISRAEL RELEASED 51 LEBANESE PRISONERS AND RETURNED NINE BODIES OF SHIITE MUSLIM GUERRILLAS IN A MOVE THAT COULD FACILITATE THE RELEASE OF THE WESTERN HOSTAGES.

IN TEHRAN, THE U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL SAID HE BELIEVED HE WAS MOVING TOWARD A GENERAL SOLUTION TO THE HOSTAGE CRISIS, BUT HE CAUTIONED AGAINST LINKING ''TOO STRONGLY'' THE ISSUE OF MISSING ISRAELI SOLDIERS WITH THE FATE OF THE WESTERNERS MISSING IN LEBANON.

^THE PRO, 3RD GRAF 3RD LD

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U I NCB008 BRT INTJ MAT 888 JER
^MIDDLE EAST-HOSTAGES, 3RD LD-WRITETHRU
^KIDNAPPERS RAISE HOPES OF HOSTAGE RELEASE
^EDS: INCORPORATES PREPARATIONS TO BURY DEAD GUERRILLAS.
^LASERPHOTO AVAILABLE
^BY RODEINA KENAAN=
^ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

BEIRUT, LEBANON (AP) - HOURS AFTER ISRAEL RELEASED 51 LEBANESE PRISONERS AND RETURNED NINE BODIES OF SHIITE MUSLIM GUERRILLAS PRO-IRANIAN KIDNAPPERS ON THURSDAY RAISED ''HAPPY ENDING'' HOPES FOR THE WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON.

THE REVOLUTIONARY JUSTICE ORGANIZATION ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT A BRITISH HOSTAGE, 77-YEAR-OLD JACK MANN, WAS ''ALIVE AND IN GOOD PHYSICAL SHAPE,'' MORE THAN TWO YEARS AFTER HE DISAPPEARED IN BEIRUT.

THE PRO-IRANIAN KIDNAPPERS AND ISRAEL AGREED THAT A GRADUAL RELEASE OF THE WESTERN HOSTAGES, MISSING ISRAELI SERVICEMEN AND ARABS HELD BY ISRAEL WAS IN THE WORKS, BUT IN A STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS.

ISRAEL, HOWEVER, INDICATED THAT THE SHIITES SHOULD MAKE THE FIRST MOVE.

AMID VOWS TO MAINTAIN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST ISRAEL, THE PRO-IRANIAN HEZBOLLAH, OR PARTY OF GOD, PREPARED TO BURY THE NINE DEAD GUERRILLAS WHOSE BODIES WERE RETURNED BY ISRAEL WEDNESDAY.

''ISRAEL IS THE ABSOLUTE EVIL. WE SHALL LIBERATE JERUSALEM,'' A BLACK BANNER READ NEAR THE IMAM RIZA MOSQUE IN SOUTH BEIRUT'S BIR ABED DISTRICT, WHERE THE FUNERAL WAS PLANNED THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

FREEING THE ARAB PRISONERS WEDNESDAY COINCIDED WITH A VISIT BY U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR TO IRAN, THE PRIME BACKER OF THE SHIITE HOSTAGE-HOLDING GROUPS IN LEBANON.

A NEWSPAPER REPORT THURSDAY QUOTED A SENIOR U.N. OFFICIAL IN TEHRAN, IRAN'S CAPITAL, AS SAYING THAT ONE OR MORE WESTERN HOSTAGES COULD BE FREED AS EARLY AS FRIDAY. THE NEW YORK TIMES DID NOT IDENTIFY THE OFFICIAL TRAVELLING WITH PEREZ DE CUELLAR'S DELEGATION.

IN BEIRUT, REVOLUTIONARY JUSTICE MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN A HANDWRITTEN ARABIC-LANGUAGE STATEMENT DELIVERED TO THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER AN-NAHAR BEFORE DAWN THURSDAY.

THE STATEMENT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AN AUTHENTICATING COLOR PICTURE OF MANN, A WORLD WAR II PILOT WHO DISAPPEARED IN BEIRUT MAY 12, 1989. NO GROUP HAD PREVIOUSLY CLAIMED HIS ABDUCTION.

THE PRO-IRANIAN GROUP ALSO HOLDS AMERICAN JOSEPH CICIPPIO, ACTING COMPTROLLER AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN BEIRUT, WHO BEGAN HIS SIXTH YEAR IN CAPTIVITY THURSDAY.

MANN AND CICIPPIO, 60, ARE AMONG 11 WESTERNERS, INCLUDING FIVE AMERICANS, MISSING IN LEBANON. THE LONGEST-HELD IS TERRY ANDERSON, CHIEF MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, WHO WAS ABDUCTED MARCH 16, 1985.

IN THURSDAY'S STATEMENT, THE REVOLUTIONARY JUSTICE ORGANIZATION WELCOMED THE RELEASE OF THE ARAB PRISONERS AND EXPRESSED RENEWED HOPES FOR A ''HAPPY ENDING'' TO THE HOSTAGE ORDEAL.

IT SAID ITS REPRESENTATIVES HAD MET WITH U.N. OFFICIALS AND ADDED THAT NEGOTIATIONS ''HAVE REACHED A MECHANISM TO RELEASE STRUGGLING SHEIK ABDUL-KARIM OBEID AND OTHER IMPRISONED BRETHREN STEP BY STEP.

''THE FIRST STAGE WAS COMPLETED BY THE RELEASE OF TODAY'S BATCH AND WE HOPE THE OTHER STAGES WILL FOLLOW SOON TO END THIS ISSUE. WE SHALL HONOR OUR OBLIGATIONS AND COMMITMENTS SO LONG AS THE OTHERS DO THE SAME,'' THE STATEMENT SAID.

^MORE

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@MIDDLE EAST-HOSTAGES CORRECTION

@BEIRUT - MIDDLE EAST-HOSTAGES 5TH LD-1ST ADD. TO CORRECT TRANSLATION OF QUOTE. SUB 5TH GRAF: ''AT THE XXX STATEMENT ADDED,

''AS WE CONSIDER THIS (WEDNESDAY'S) RELEASE OPERATION A POSITIVE STEP, WE AT THE SAME TIME CONSIDER IT AN INCOMPLETE ONE UNLESS IT CULMINATES IN FREEING ALL OUR IMPRISONED BRETHREN IN THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY IN EUROPE AND THE JAILS OF THE ZIONIST ENEMY.'' THE STATEMENT ADDED.

@NS-GGL

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^MIDDLE EAST-HOSTAGES, 1ST LD-WRITETHRU,0432

^PRECEDE NAHARIYAH

^SHIITE KIDNAPPERS: PROCESS UNDER WAY THAT COULD END HOSTAGE ORDEAL

^EDS: UPDATES WITH PUBLISHED REPORT THAT ONE OR MORE WESTERN HOSTAGES COULD BE RELEASED AS EARLY AS FRIDAY, U.S. HOSTAGE CICIPPIO BEGINNING SIXTH YEAR IN CAPTIVITY THURSDAY, OTHER NEW DETAILS= CHANGES BYLINE

^LASERPHOTO AVAILABLE

^BY RODEINA KENAAN=

^ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

BEIRUT, LEBANON (AP) - SHIITE KIDNAPPERS RELEASED A PICTURE OF A BRITISH HOSTAGE EARLY THURSDAY AND SAID ISRAEL'S RELEASE OF 51 ARAB PRISONERS BEGAN A PROCESS THAT COULD LEAD TO A ''HAPPY ENDING'' FOR THE WESTERNERS HELD IN LEBANON.

BOTH THE SHIITES AND ISRAEL SAY A GRADUAL RELEASE IS IN THE WORKS, WITH THE KIDNAPPING GROUP REFERRING TO A ''STAGE-BY-STAGE'' PROCESS AND ISRAEL'S CHIEF NEGOTIATOR CALLING IT ''STEP-BY-STEP.'' ISRAEL INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE SHIITES HAVE TO MAKE THE NEXT MOVE.

THE FREEING OF THE ARAB PRISONERS WEDNESDAY COINCIDED WITH A VISIT BY U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR TO IRAN, THE PRIME BACKER OF THE SHIITE HOSTAGE-HOLDING GROUPS IN LEBANON.

A NEWSPAPER REPORT THURSDAY QUOTED A SENIOR U.N. OFFICIAL IN IRAN'S CAPITAL AS SAYING THAT ONE OR MORE WESTERN HOSTAGES COULD BE FREED AS EARLY AS FRIDAY. THE NEW YORK TIMES DID NOT IDENTIFY THE OFFICIAL TRAVELING WITH PEREZ DE CUELLAR'S DELEGATION IN TEHRAN.

IN BEIRUT, THURSDAY'S RELEASE OF THE PHOTOGRAPH OF BRITISH HOSTAGE JACK MANN WAS THE FIRST WORD ON THE FORMER PILOT SINCE HIS ABDUCTION IN MOSLEM WEST BEIRUT ON MAY 12, 1989.

THE REVOLUTIONARY JUSTICE ORGANIZATION, IN A HANDWRITTEN ARABIC-LANGUAGE COMMUNIQUE ALSO DELIVERED EARLY THURSDAY TO THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER AN-NAHAR, SAID MANN WAS ALIVE AND WELL.

THE PRO-IRANIAN GROUP ALSO HOLDS AMERICAN JOSEPH CICIPPIO, ACTING COMPTROLLER AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN BEIRUT, WHO BEGAN HIS SIXTH YEAR IN CAPTIVITY THURSDAY.

MANN, 77, AND CICIPPIO, 60, ARE AMONG 11 WESTERNERS, INCLUDING FIVE AMERICANS, MISSING IN LEBANON. THE LONGEST-HELD IS TERRY ANDERSON, CHIEF MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, WHO WAS ABDUCTED MARCH 16, 1985.

IN THURSDAY'S STATEMENT, THE REVOLUTIONARY JUSTICE ORGANIZATION WELCOMED THE RELEASE OF THE ARAB PRISONERS AND EXPRESSED RENEWED HOPES FOR A ''HAPPY ENDING'' TO THE HOSTAGE ORDEAL.

IT SAID ITS REPRESENTATIVES HAD MET WITH U.N. OFFICIALS AND ADDED THAT NEGOTIATIONS ''HAVE REACHED A MECHANISM TO RELEASE STRUGGLING SHEIK ABDUL-KARIM OBEID AND OTHER IMPRISONED BRETHREN STAGE BY STAGE.

''THE FIRST STAGE WAS COMPLETED BY THE RELEASE OF TODAY'S BATCH AND WE HOPE THE OTHER STAGES WILL FOLLOW SOON TO END THIS ISSUE. WE SHALL HONOR OUR OBLIGATIONS AND COMMITMENTS SO LONG AS THE OTHERS DO THE SAME,'' THE STATEMENT SAID.

^MORE

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^MIDDLE EAST-HOSTAGES, 1ST LD-1ST ADD, 0488

^BEIRUT, LEBANON: STATEMENT SAID.

OBEID, A SHIITE MUSLIM LEADER KIDNAPPED BY ISRAEL FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON IN JULY 1989, IS CONSIDERED THE KEY TO ANY BROAD SWAP INVOLVING ARAB PRISONERS, ISRAELIS MISSING IN LEBANON AND THE WESTERN HOSTAGES.

ISRAEL HAS LONG INSISTED ON AN ACCOUNTING OF ITS MISSING MEN IN LEBANON AS PART OF ANY OVERALL HOSTAGE DEAL.

ISRAEL'S FREEING WEDNESDAY OF 51 PRISONERS AND NINE DEAD GUERRILLAS FOLLOWED THE RELEASE FROM THE ARAB SIDE OF LONG-SOUGHT EVIDENCE THAT RAHAMIM ALSHEIKH, AN ISRAELI SOLDIER MISSING IN LEBANON FOR 5 1/2 YEARS, IS DEAD. SIX MORE ISRAELIS ARE STILL MISSING.

LUBRANI, ASKED WHY ISRAEL HAD FREED SOME ARAB PRISONERS WITHOUT WORD ON THE FATES OF ALL THE MISSING SERVICEMEN, SAID: ''THIS CANNOT BE DONE IN ONE SHOT AND THEREFORE WE TAKE IT STEP BY STEP, AND WHENEVER WE HAVE SOME PROGRESS WE WILL RESPOND.''

LUBRANI INDICATED WEDNESDAY THAT THE STATUS OF SAMIR ASSAD, ANOTHER MISSING ISRAELI SAID BY HIS PALESTINIAN CAPTORS TO BE DEAD, MAY BE RESOLVED ''IN THE COMING DAYS.''

THE ISRAELI RELEASE WAS A GESTURE DEMANDED BY THE HOSTAGE-HOLDING GROUPS, WHICH HAD FREED BRITON JOHN MCCARTHY AND AMERICAN EDWARD TRACY LAST MONTH.

THE UNITED STATES WELCOMED THE ISRAELI RELEASE. ''WE ARE VERY HOPEFUL THAT THIS HAS RAMIFICATIONS THAT ARE HELPFUL TO THE HOSTAGE SITUATION,'' WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN MARLIN FITZWATER SAID WEDNESDAY.

FITZWATER SAID HE HAD NO INFORMATION THAT ANY OTHER HOSTAGE RELEASES WERE PENDING.

SHEIK MOHAMMED HUSSEIN FADLALLAH, SPIRITUAL MENTOR TO HEZBOLLAH, WHICH IS BELIEVED TO BE AN UMBRELLA FOR THE PRO-IRANIAN HOSTAGE-HOLDING FACTIONS, SAID THE RELEASES AND REPATRIATIONS ''CREATES AN ATMOSPHERE CONDUCIVE TO POSITIVE RESULTS.''

FADLALLAH, WHO SPOKE TO REPORTERS IN BEIRUT, SAID HE EXPECTED MOVEMENT ON THE HOSTAGE ISSUE AS A RESULT, BUT DID NOT PREDICT ANY TIMETABLE.

PEREZ DE CUELLAR WAS ''VERY ENCOURAGED'' BY ISRAEL'S ACTIONS, U.N. SPOKESMAN FRANCOIS GIULIANI SAID.

''HE WILL NOW REDOUBLE HIS EFFORTS TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF ALL HOSTAGES, DETAINEES AND MISSING PERSONS,'' GIULIANI SAID.

PEREZ DE CUELLAR MET WEDNESDAY WITH IRANIAN PRESIDENT HASHEMI RAFSANJANI AND FOREIGN MINISTER ALI AKBAR VELAYATI FOR TALKS TOTALING MORE THAN THREE HOURS, BUT HIS SPOKESMAN GAVE NO DETAILS.

IN A DIPLOMATIC MOVE IMPORTANT TO IRAN, THE U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL ALSO MET WITH THE FAMILIES OF FOUR IRANIANS MISSING IN LEBANON SINCE 1982.

THE ISSUE OF THE FOUR MISSING IRANIANS, INCLUDING CHARGE D'AFFAIRES MOHSEN MUSAVI, HAS BEEN LINKED BY TEHRAN TO AN OVERALL EXCHANGE OF WESTERN HOSTAGES AND ARAB PRISONERS. THE FOUR ARE WIDELY BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED BY LEBANESE CHRISTIAN MILITIAMEN.

RAFSANJANI IS A PERCEIVED PRAGMATIST WHO APPEARS TO HAVE GAINED THE UPPER HAND IN HIS STRUGGLE WITH MUSLIM FUNDAMENTALIST HARD-LINERS WHO LED THE 1979 IRANIAN REVOLUTION. HE SEEKS TO FREE THE HOSTAGES AS A WAY OF IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE WEST AND EXPAND TRADE TO REVIVE HIS FLAGGING ECONOMY.

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#LEBANON-ISRAEL

#SHIITE SAYS GROUP HAS TWO ISRAELI BODIES; RON ARAD IN TEHRAN

BEIRUT, LEBANON (AP) - A PRO-SYRIAN SHIITE MUSLIM GROUP SAID TUESDAY IT HAS THE BODIES OF TWO MISSING ISRAELI SERVICEMEN CAPTURED SINCE ISRAEL'S 1982 INVASION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SECULAR AMAL MOVEMENT ALSO SAID IT HAD INFORMATION THAT A CAPTIVE ISRAELI NAVIGATOR, RON ARAD, HAD BEEN SOLD TO IRANIAN REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS FOR DLRS 500,000 AND WAS BEING HELD IN TEHRAN.

IN ISRAEL, A DEFENSE MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAID THAT UNLESS THE BODIES WERE IDENTIFIED, THE AMAL STATEMENT WOULD BE CONSIDERED ''ANOTHER UNFOUNDED CLAIM.''

HE SAID ISRAEL HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT WOULD NOT ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS INVOLVING ITS SERVICEMEN, THE RELEASE OF LEBANESE PRISONERS HELD BY ISRAEL AND WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON WITHOUT COMPLETE IDENTIFICATION.

THE AMAL SPOKESMAN REFUSED TO IDENTIFY THE ISRAELIS OR PROVIDE OTHER DETAILS, BUT HE SAID:

''WE KNOW THAT THE BODIES OF THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS ARE WORTH A LOT FOR THEM (ISRAELIS). THEY ARE BEING TAKEN CARE OF QUITE WELL.''

HE ADDED THAT AMAL, HEADED BY NABIH BERRI, HAD APPREHENDED RON ARAD IN 1986 WHEN HIS AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN OVER THE SOUTHERN PORT CITY OF SIDON.

''WE HAVE REPORTS THAT RON ARAD IS CURRENTLY HELD IN TEHRAN,'' HE ADDED.

HE SAID A RENEGADE AMAL SECURITY CHIEF, MUSTAFA DIRANI, HAD SOLD ARAD TO THE REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS, OR PASDARAN, OR DLRS 500,000, AND THE PASDARAN SPIRITED HIM FROM BAALBEK TO TEHRAN A FEW YEARS LATER.

ISRAEL HAS EXPRESSED WILLIGNESS TO RELEASE SOME 375 LEBANESE PRISONERS HELD BY ISRAEL OR ITS SURROGATE MILITIA IN SOUTH LEBANON, THE SOUTH LEBANON ARMY, IN EXCHANGE FOR ITS SEVEN MISSING SERVICEMEN IN LEBANON.

IT ALSO DEMANDED SOLID INFORMATION ABOUT THE MISSING MEN AS A PRECONDITION TO SET DEAL IN MOTION.

THE REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS HAVE AN ESTIMATED 3,000-MAN CONTINGENT BASED SINCE 1982 IN EAST LEBANON'S TOWN OF BAALBEK, WHERE MOST OF THE 11 WESTERNERS MISSING IN LEBANON ARE BELIEVED HELD AT PRESENT.

DAN NAVEH, SPOKESMAN FOR ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER MOSHE ARENS, SAID THAT ''AS LONG AS THERE HAS NOT BEEN A METICULOUS EXAMINATION OF THE TWO BODIES IN ORDER TO CERTIFY THEIR IDENTIFICATION, THE DECLARATION MUST BE TAKEN AS ANOTHER UNFOUNDED CLAIM, ONE OF MANY, HEARD LATELY FROM LEBANON.

''ALSO, IN THE PAST NABIH BERRI HAS CLAIMED THAT HE HOLDS ISRAELI BODIES AND HAS BEEN TOLD THAT A PRECONDITION FOR ANY NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT IS THE FULL AND COMPLETE IDENTIFICATION OF THE BODIES HE HOLDS,'' NAVEH SAID.

ON MONDAY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PRO-IRANIAN SHIITE GROUP, HEZBOLLAH, THE UMBRELLA GROUP FOR WESTERN HOSTAGE HOLDERS IN LEBANON, SAID IT HELD TWO ISRAELI SERVICEMEN. BUT HE REFUSED TO SAY WHETHER THEY WERE ALIVE OR DEAD.

#MORE

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LEBANON-ISRAEL, 1ST ADD
BEIRUT, LEBANON: OR DEAD.

THE TWO, YOSSI FINK AND RAHAMIM ALSHEIKH, WERE CAPTURED IN AN AMBUSH IN SOUTH LEBANON FEB. 17, 1986, AND HEZBOLLAH CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR HOLDING THEM A FEW DAYS LATER.

THE DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE, A MARXIST FACTION OF YASSER ARAFAT'S PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, HAD CLAIMED IN 1984 IT WAS HOLDING ISRAELI SGT. SAMIR ASSAD, WHO WAS KIDNAPPED NEAR SIDON IN 1983.

THE DFLP LATER SAID ASSAD WAS KILLED IN AN ISRAELI AIR RAID ON RABBIT ISLAND OF NORTH LEBANON'S PORT CITY OF TRIPOLI, WHERE HE IS BELIEVED TO BE BURIED.

THE DFLP ANNOUNCED TWO WEEKS AGO THAT IT WAS WILLING TO RETURN ASSAD'S REMAINS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A PRISONERS SWAP WITH ISRAEL.

IF ALL ACCOUNTS BY AMAL, HEZBOLLAH AND THE DFLP ARE ACCURATE THAT LEAVES ONLY ONE OF THE SEVEN MISSING ISRAELIS UNACCOUNTED FOR.

ONE KIDNAP FACTION, ISLAMIC JIHAD, OR ISLAMIC HOLY WAR, HAS OFFERED IN A LETTER TO U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR TO FREE THE WESTERN HOSTAGES IN EXCHANGE FOR THE RELEASE OF THE 375 SHIITE ARABS HELD BY ISRAEL AND OTHERS.

PEREZ DE CUELLAR WAS IN GENEVA TUESDAY, WHERE HE MET WITH IRAN'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, KAMAL KHARRAZI, TO DISCUSS THE HOSTAGE ISSUE.

AFTER THE MEETING, KHARRAZI SAID IRAN HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT THE FATE OF THE SEVEN MISSING ISRAELIS. HE SAID THAT WAS A MATTER FOR THE ISRAELIS AND LEBANESE TO SOLVE.

JERUSALEM HAS REPEATEDLY SAID IT WILL NOT RELEASE ANY DETAINEES UNTIL IT HAS RELIABLE AND DETAILED REPORTS ABOUT ITS SERVICEMEN, WHETHER ALIVE OR DEAD.

THAT LEAVES A STALEMATE ON THE FIVE AMERICANS, THREE BRITONS, TWO GERMANS AND ITALIAN WHO ARE MISSING IN LEBANON.

AMERICAN JOURNALIST TERRY ANDERSON, 43, CHIEF MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, IS THE LONGEST-HELD WESTERN HOSTAGE. HE WAS KIDNAPPED MARCH 16, 1985.

(RK-WP)

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LEBANON-ISRAELI AIRMAN

#FORMER AMAL SECURITY CHIEF DENIES SELLING ISRAELI POW TO IRAN

BEIRUT, LEBANON (AP) - THE FORMER SECURITY CHIEF OF THE PRO-SYRIAN AMAL MILITIA ON THURSDAY DENIED THAT HE HAD SOLD AN ISRAELI PRISONER TO IRAN.

MUSTAFA DEIRANI SAID IN A STATEMENT BROADCAST BY SEVERAL BEIRUT RADIO STATION THAT HE HAS NO INFORMATION ABOUT RON ARAD, ONE OF SEVEN MISSING ISRAELI SERVICEMEN WHOSE FATE IS LINKED TO THE RELEASE OF WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON.

DEIRANI WAS FIRED AS AMAL SECURITY CHIEF IN 1988. HE MOVED FROM HIS BASE IN SOUTH LEBANON TO THE ANCIENT CITY OF BAALBEK IN THE EASTERN BEKAA VALLEY WHERE HE FORMED A SPLINNER GROUP WITH THE HELP OF IRANIAN REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS BASED THERE.

THE LEADERSHIP OF AMAL CLAIMS DEIRANI TOOK ARAD WITH HIM TO BAALBEK AND LATER SOLD HIM FOR 500,000 DOLLARS TO THE REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS WHO SMUGGLED HIM TO IRAN VIA SYRIA.

''THIS CLAIM IS UNTRUE AND IRRESPONSIBLE,'' DEIRANI SAID IN HIS STATEMENT. ''I AM NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY MISDEEDS THAT OCCURRED AFTER MY DISMISSAL.''

A SPOKESMAN FOR AMAL SAID EARLIER THIS WEEK THAT THE ISRAELI AIRMAN, WHOSE PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN OVER SOUTH LEBANON ON OCT.16, 1986, WAS PROBABLY STILL ALIVE IN TEHRAN.

ISRAEL APPEALED TO TEHRAN ON WEDNESDAY TO RELEASE INFORMATION JBOUT THE AIRMAN TO U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR WHO IS TRYING TO MEDIATE THE RELEASE OF WESTERN HOSTAGES IN RETURN FBR S8RBE875NBRBISPRIBONERSAHEEES
IN SOUTH LEBANON.

ISRAEL INSISTS ON OBTAINING CONCRETE INFORMATION ABOUT ALL OF ITS SEVEN SERVICEMEN BEFORE SUCH A DEAL COULD BE WORKED OUT.

IRAN HAS DENIED IT WAS HOLDING ARAD.

THE PRO-IRANIAN HEZBOLLAH, OR PARTY OF GOD, HAS CLAIMED THE ABDUCTION OF TWO ISRAELIS IN 1986, BUT REFUSES TO PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION UNTIL SOME OF THE ARAB PRISONERS ARE FREED.

AMAL, HEZBOLLAH'S IDEOLOGICAL RIVAL, SAYS IT HAS THE BODIES OF TWO SOLDIERS WHO DISAPPEARED IN 1982.

THE DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE HAS SAID IT HAS THE BODY OF AN ISRAELI SOLDIER.

THERE HAS BEEN NO WORD ABOUT A SEVENTH ISRAELI SERVICEMAN, YEHUDA KATZ, WHO WENT MISSING DURING THE 1982 ISRAELI INVASION OF LEBANON.

THE MISSING WESTERNERS ARE FIVE AMERICANS, THREE BRITONS, TWO GERMANS AND AN ITALIAN. MOST ARE BELIEVED HELD BY SHIITE MUSLIM ZEALOTS LINKED TO HEZBOLLAH.

THE LONGEST HELD WESTERNER IS AMERICAN JOURNALIST TERRY ANDERSON. ANDERSON, CHIEF MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, WAS KIDNAPPED ON MARCH 16, 1985.

THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY ON THURSDAY QUOTED SHEIK ABBAS MUSAWI, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF HEZBOLLAH, AS SAYING IN TEHRAN THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS DELAYING THE RELEASE OF HOSTAGES FOR POLITICAL GAIN.

MUSAVI SAID, ''ANY TIME THE UNITED STATES BIDS THE ISRAELIS TO FREE THE MUSLIM HOSTAGES IN THEIR CUSTODY, THE MUSLIM HOSTAGES WOULD BE SET FREE.''

HE SAID THAT ''SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE HOSTAGE PROBLEM IN LEBANON THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN TRYING TO CAPITALIZE ON IT FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES RATHER THAN TRYING TO SOLVE IT,'' REPORTED IRNA, MONITORED IN CYPRUS.

MUSAVI HAS BEEN IN IRAN SINCE LAST THURSDAY.

2024G 29 08 91

RR0056 5. L

R I W0295 02B7 R7 23 6R RBT
‡LEBANON@R'4-3), 1ST LD,0244
‡SHIITE SAYS HAS 2 ISRAELI BODIES, RON ARAD IN TEHRAN
‡EDS: UPDATES WITH AMAL LEADER'S COMMENTS= ADDS BYLINE
‡BY RODEINA KENAAN=
‡ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

BEIRUT, LEBANON (AP) - A SHIITE MUSLIM GROUP HAS THE BODIES OF TWO MISSING ISRAELI SERVICEMEN AND WILL ALLOW THE RED CROSS TO EXAMINE THEM IF ISRAEL FIRST RELEASES 28 SHIITE WOMEN PRISONERS, THE GROUP'S LEADER AID TUESHAY.

NABIH BERRI, LEADER OF HE PRO-SYRIAN AMAL MOVEMENT, SAID THE BODIES WERD OF TWO ISRAELI SOLDIERS CAPTURED AFTER ISRAEL'S 1982 INVASION AND REVEALED THEIR IDENTITIES. BERRI'S STATEMENT WAS CARRIED BY THE STATE-RUN NATIONAL NEWSAGENCY, ZHICH SAID HE MADE IT AT HIS HOME IN SOUTH LEBANON'S VILLAGE OF MUSSEILEH.

EARLIER TUESDAY, AN AMAL SPOKESMAN SAID A CAPTIVE ISRAELI NAVIGATOR HAD BEEN SOLD TO IRANIAN REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS FOR DLRS 500,000 AND WAS BEING HELD IN TEHRAN.

IN ISRAEL DEFENSE MINISTRY SPOKESMAN DAN NAVEH SAID THAT UNLESS THE BODIES WERE IDENTIFIED, THE STATEMENTS BYHAMAL WOULD BE CONSIDERED ''ANOTHER UNFOUNDED CLAIM.''

THE AMAL SPOKESMAN REFUSED TO IDENTIFY THE ISRAELIS OR PROVIDE OTYER DETAILS, BUT SAID: ''WE KNOW NO THE BODIES OF THE ISRUELI SOLDIERS ARE WORTH A LOT FOR THEM (ISRAELIS). THEY ARE BEING TAKEN CARE OF QUITE WELL.''

HE SAID THAT AMAL HAD CAPTURED ISRAELI NAVIGATOR RON ARAD IN
±98@9203, @R' -R4:4-05 2-' '@95 #92, 9=34 5@3 '975@34, 0945 :856 90
‡THE AMAL, 5TH GRAF

03176 28 08 91

AR0252

Swap. S-L.

U I NCB049 INTJ NAT 888 NIC

^IRAN-UN-HOSTAGES, 1ST LD-WRITETHRU

^U.N. CHIEF CAUTIOUS ON LINK BETWEEN HOSTAGES, MISSING SERVICEMEN

^EDS: AMS= UPDATES WITH PEREZ DE CUELLAR SAYING IRANIANS HELPFUL.

^BY HANNS NEUERBOURG=

^ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

TEHRAN, IRAN (AP) - U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR SAID THURSDAY THE FIRST VERIFIED WORD ON THE FATE OF ISRAELI SERVICEMEN MISSING IN LEBANON COULD HELP SOLVE THE MIDDLE EAST HOSTAGE CRISIS.

BUT HE CAUTIONED AGAINST LINKING THE ISSUE ''TOO STRONGLY'' WITH THE RELEASE OF THE 11 WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON.

PEREZ DE CUELLAR SAID HE WAS COUNTING ON THE CONTINUED COOPERATION OF ALL CONCERNED TO ''PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION AND AT SOME STAGE TO SOLVE TOTALLY THE PROBLEM'' OF THE MISSING ISRAELIS.

ISRAEL HAS DEMANDED SOLID INFORMATION ON THE FATE OF ITS SEVEN MISSING MEN BEFORE AGREEING TO A COMPREHENSIVE SWAP.

IT FREED 51 DETAINEES AND HANDED OVER THE BODIES OF NINE LEBANESE GUERILLAS TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS ON WEDNESDAY, SAYING THIS WAS BECAUSE IT HAD GOTTEN PROOF THAT ONE OF ITS MISSING SOLDIERS WAS DEAD.

PEREZ DE CUELLAR SAID THURSDAY HE HAD OBTAINED INFORMATION ON THE BODIES OF TWO, BUT DID NOT ELABORATE. IN ISRAEL, NEWS REPORTS SAID THE BODY OF SAMIR ASSAD, AN ISRAELI DRUSE MISSING SINCE 1983, WAS EXPECTED TO BE RETURNED SOON.

THE LEBANESE KIDNAPPERS OF 11 WESTERNERS HAD DEMANDED RELEASE OF A LEAST SOME OF ABOUT 375 ARABS HELD BY ISRAEL OR ITS SURROGATE MILITIA IN SOUTH LEBANON BEFORE THEY FREED ANY MORE OF THE HOSTAGES.

LAST MONTH, PEREZ DE CUELLAR SAID MEETING THE ISRAELI DEMAND FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE MISSING SERVICEMEN WAS PIVOTAL IN HIS EFFORTS.

''IF I COULD SOLVE THIS PROBLEM, ALMOST EVERYTHING WOULD BE SOLVED,'' HE SAID THEN.

ASKED THURSDAY WHETHER THIS MEANT AN OVERALL SOLUTION OF THE CRISIS MIGHT BE CLOSE, HE ANSWERED, ''I AM MOVING IN THAT DIRECTION, AS YOU KNOW I HAVE ALREADY GOT A GOOD RESULT WHICH I HOPE WILL BE THE BEGINNING.''

BUT HE SAID IT WAS ''NOT RIGHT TO LINK TOO STRONGLY THE QUESTION OF THE MISSING ISRAELIS WITH THE RELEASE OF THE WESTERNERS. THERE IS NOT NECESSARILY A LINK BETWEEN THE TWO THINGS.''

PEREZ DE CUELLAR TALKED TO REPORTERS AFTER ANOTHER MEETING WITH IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ALI AKBAR VELAYATI.

HE SAID VELAYATI ASSURED HIM FULL COOPERATION IN ENDING THE HOSTAGE CRISIS. ''THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT IS HELPING ME AS MUCH AS THEY CAN, BUT THEY DON'T HOLD THE KEY TO THIS PROBLEM,'' HE SAID.

IRAN RADIO, MEANWHILE, SAID THAT ISRAEL'S RELEASE OF ARAB PRISONERS RAISED HOPES FOR AN END TO THE HOSTAGE ISSUE BUT WARNED THAT THE ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES MIGHT STILL BLOCK A SOLUTION WITH ''OBSTRUCTIONISM.''

PEREZ DE CUELLAR ALSO WAS ASKED ABOUT REPORTS THAT BRITISH HOSTAGE JACK MANN WOULD BE FREED SOON, AND HE SAID THIS WAS A ''GOOD PIECE OF NEWS'' WHICH HE HOPED WOULD BE CONFIRMED.

PEREZ DE CUELLAR WAS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE FOR SAUDI ARABIA ON FRIDAY MORNING.

^(AN-NBH)

16130 12 09 91

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RR4190
      U I NCC003 INT NAT NIC 888
^DFLP-ISRAEL, 1ST LD
^PLO GROUP SAYS NO CONDITIONS IN RETURN OF ACTIVIST
^EDS: CORRECTS GRAMMAR IN LEDE
^LASERPHOTO AVAILABLE
^BY MONA ZIADE=
^ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=
   DAMASCUS, SYRIA (AP) - THE DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION
OF PALESTINE SAID FRIDAY THAT THE DEAL IT STRUCK WITH ISRAEL
ALLOWING A DEPORTED PALESTINIAN TO RETURN HOME WAS UNPRECEDENTED
IN NOT LIMITING THE MAN'S POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.
   THE SWAP, 2ND GRAF DFLP-ISRAEL
^GGL
1326G 13 09 91



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RR0185

U I NCB040 INT NAT NIC 888

Swap. S.L.

^DFLP-ISRAEL

^PLO GROUP SAYS NO CONDITIONS IN RETURN OF ACTIVIST

^LASERPHOTO AVAILABLE

^BY MONA ZIADE=

^ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

DAMASCUS, SYRIA (AP) - THE DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE SAID FRIDAY THAT THE DEAL IT STRUCK WITH ISRAEL ALLOWING A DEPORTED PALESTINIAN TO RETURN HOME WAS UNPRECEDENTED IN NOT LIMITED THE MAN'S POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

THE SWAP AGREEMENT, WHICH ALSO SAW THE DFLP RETURNING AN ISRAELI SOLDIER'S BODY, WAS WIDELY EXPECTED TO BOOST EFFORTS TO ARRANGE THE EXCHANGE OF WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON AND MISSING ISRAELI SERVICEMEN FOR ARAB DETAINEES.

''THIS IS THE FIRST DEAL OF ITS KIND,'' SAID DAOUD TALHAMI, A DFLP SPOKESMAN, AT A NEWS CONFERENCE AT THE FRONT'S HEADQUARTERS IN DAMASCUS.

''NEVER BEFORE HAS A PALESTINIAN EXPELLED BY ISRAEL'S OCCUPATION AUTHORITIES BEEN ALLOWED TO RETURN HOME WITHOUT HAVING TO SIGN WRITTEN GUARANTEES TO REFRAIN FROM POLITICAL ACTIVITY,'' SAID TALHAMI.

HOWEVER, THE ISRAELI ARMY SAID THAT ALI ABU HILAL WAS ALLOWED TO RETURN TO ABU DIS, A JERUSALEM SUBURB, ONLY AFTER HE SIGNED A PROMISE ''NOT TO BREAK THE LAW.''

THE ISRAELI STATEMENT DID NOT EXPLAIN WHAT WOULD CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF LAW, AND TALHAMI INSISTED THAT ABU HILAL WOULD CONTINUE HIS ''LEADING ROLE AS A POLITICAL AND UNION ACTIVIST.''

ABU HILAL, WHO WAS EXPELLED IN JANUARY 1986, IS A DFLP ACTIVIST AND A MEMBER OF THE PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL, THE PALESTINIAN PARLIAMENT-IN-EXILE.

THE BODY THAT WAS RETURNED WAS THAT OF SGT. SAMIR ASSAD, WHO WAS CAPTURED BY THE DFLP IN APRIL 1983 DURING THE INVASION OF LEBANON.

A YEAR LATER, THE DFLP SAID HE WAS KILLED IN AN ISRAELI AIR RAID ON ONE OF ITS BASES ON RABBIT ISLAND, OFF LEBANON'S NORTHERN CITY OF TRIPOLI.

THE DFLP ALSO RELEASED A PICTURE OF ASSAD BEFORE HIS DEATH. IT WAS THE ONLY PHOTOGRAPH OF THE ISRAELI SERGEANT TO BE RELEASED SINCE HIS ABDUCTION.

THE BLACK AND WHITE PICTURE SHOWED THE YOUNG, DARK-HAIRED SERGEANT WEARING A LIGHT COTTON SHIRT AND SITTING IN AN ARMCHAIR. HE WAS LOOKING DOWN FROM THE CAMERA.

IN FRONT OF HIM ON A COFFEE TABLE WAS A COPY OF AL-HOURRIEH, THE ARABIC-LANGUAGE WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE DFLP. TALHAMI SAID THE PICTURE WAS TAKEN SHORTLY BEFORE ASSAD WAS KILLED, BUT DID NOT GIVE A DATE.

TALHAMI SAID NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE SWAP OF ASSAD'S BODY FOR PALESTINIANS IN ISRAELI JAILS OR THE RETURN OF EXILED PALESTINIANS HAD DRAGGED ON FOR SEVERAL YEARS. ISRAEL, HE SAID, REFUSED ALL PREVIOUS OFFERS.

''MAYBE IF HE WEREN'T OF THIS SECT, THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE EAGER,'' TALHAMI SAID. ASSAD WAS AN ISRAELI DRUSE, NOT A JEW.

HE NOTED THAT ISRAEL APPEARED MORE FLEXIBLE IN THE LATEST ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS, AND EXPLAINED THAT THE CONTACTS WERE HELD INDIRECTLY THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS.

^MORE

1312G 13 09 91

RR0186
U I NCB041 INTJ NAT NIC 888
^PFLP-ISRAEL, 1ST ADD
^DAMASCUS: RED CROSS.

—''IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE WHOLE ATMOSPHERE NOW CONCERNING THE HOSTAGES AND THE PRESSURE MADE ON ISRAEL TO SOLVE THIS (HOSTAGE) PROBLEM MIGHT HAVE HELPED, BECAUSE ISRAEL WASN'T VERY RESPONSIVE IN THE PAST,'' SAID TALHAMI.

BUT HE STRESSED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THIS DEAL WERE ''TOTALLY SEPARATE'' FROM EFFORTS TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON. HE INSISTED THAT THE ISSUE OF THE 11 MISSING WESTERNERS WAS ''PURELY A LEBANESE ISSUE ... A RESULT OF THE OBIOUS CIVIL WAR IN THAT COUNTRY.''

^NZ-GGL
1314G 13 09 91

S. L.

RR0209
U I JNA452 INTJ 888 NAT JER NIC
^ISRAEL-PRISONERS, 2ND LD
^ISRAEL FREES 51 LEBANESE PRISONERS, RELEASES 9 BODIES
^EDS: LUBRANI HOPES FOR FURTHER MOVES
^BY ARIEH O'SULLIVAN=
^ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

ROSH HANIKRA, ISRAEL (AP) - ISRAEL FREED 51 LEBANESE PRISONERS WEDNESDAY AFTER GETTING CONFIRMATION THAT A MISSING ISRAELI SOLDIER WAS DEAD. IT SAID IT HOPED THE MOVE WOULD SPEED THE RELEASE OF WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON.

A MILITARY COMMUNIQUE SAID ISRAEL ACTED AFTER RECEIVING ''IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE'' THAT RAHAMIM ALSHEIKH, MISSING SINCE 1986, WAS DEAD. ISRAEL HAS INSISTED THAT BEFORE FREEING PRISONERS, IT MUST HAVE DEFINITE WORD ON THE FATE OF SEVEN SERVICEMEN MISSING IN LEBANON.

ISRAEL ALSO REPATRIATED THE BODIES OF NINE MUSLIM GUERRILLAS TO LEBANON, HANDING THEM TO RED CROSS AUTHORITIES AT THE ROSH HANIKRA CHECKPOINT.

AN ARMY SPOKESMAN SAID ALL THE DEAD WERE MEMBERS OF HEZBOLLAH, THE SHIITE MUSLIM MILITIA, KILLED IN CLASHES IN SOUTH LEBANON.

THE COMMUNIQUE SAID THE PRISONERS WERE RELEASED FROM THE EL-KHIAM PRISON IN ISRAELI-CONTROLLED SOUTH LEBANON.

THE STEPS COULD HELP BREAK THE LOGJAM IN HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS AND LEAD TO FREEDOM FOR 11 WESTERNERS MISSING IN LEBANON, ISRAELI OFFICIALS SAID.

URI LUBRANI, ISRAEL'S CHIEF HOSTAGE NEGOTIATOR, SAID HE HOPED THE FATE OF ANOTHER MISSING ISRAELI WOULD BE RESOLVED ''IN THE COMING DAYS.''

ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS HAVE SAID ISRAEL MAY ALLOW A PALESTINIAN EXILE TO COME HOME IN RETURN FOR INFORMATION ON SAMIR ASSAD, A DRUSE SOLDIER KIDNAPPED IN LEBANON IN 1983. A PALESTINIAN FACTION CLAIMED IT WAS HOLDING HIM BUT THAT HE WAS KILLED IN AN ISRAELI AIR RAID.

LUBRANI WAS ASKED AT A NEWS CONFERENCE IN TEL AVIV WHETHER, AS PART OF A PRISONER EXCHANGE, ISRAEL WOULD REPATRIATE ANY OF THE HUNDREDS OF PALESTINIANS IT HAS DEPORTED FROM THE ARAB TERRITORY IT OCCUPIES.

''I DON'T INTEND TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION. WE'LL WAIT AND SEE,'' LUBRANI REPLIED.

THE ISRAELI ARMY STATEMENT SAID WEDNESDAY'S MOVE WAS TIED TO U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR'S EFFORTS TO SECURE AN OVERALL RELEASE OF PRISONERS AND HOSTAGES. PEREZ DE CUELLAR IS IN TEHRAN, MEETING WITH IRANIAN OFFICIALS TO TRY TO RESOLVE THE LEBANON HOSTAGE ISSUE.

ARAB KIDNAPPERS HAVE DEMANDED A GESTURE FROM ISRAEL, AND IT HAS BEEN ASSUMED BY THE ISRAELIS THAT ONLY AN OVERALL PACKAGE DEAL INVOLVING WESTERN HOSTAGES, CAPTURED ARAB GUERRILLAS AND MISSING ISRAELI SERVICEMEN WOULD WORK.

YOSSI OLMERT, HEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE, SAID ISRAEL'S ACTION COULD BE SEEN AS ''A MOVE TOWARD RELEASE OF ALL THOSE INNOCENT HOSTAGES'' FROM ISRAEL AND WESTERN NATIONS.

''I'M SURE WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK,'' HE ADDED.

LUBRANI TOLD REPORTERS: ''WE ALL HOPE THIS IS BEGINNING OF A PROCESS WHICH WILL END WITH THE SOLUTION, ONCE AND FOR ALL, OF THE TRAGIC PROBLEM OF OUR POWS AND MIAS AND OF THE WESTERN HOSTAGES.''

HE SAID WEDNESDAY'S ACTION WAS PEREZ DE CUELLAR'S ''FIRST ACHIEVEMENT.''

''IT'S NOT DRAMATIC PROGRESS, BUT IT DEFINITELY SHOWS THAT SOMETHING HAS MOVED,'' LUBRANI SAID, ADDING THAT ISRAEL CONTINUED TO SEE THE U.N. CHIEF'S MEDIATION AS ''THE CENTRAL CHANNEL.''

THE ISRAELI, 8TH GRAF 1ST LD-WRITETHRU

AME-EAP

1648G 11 09 91

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RR0194
U I TLA185 INTJ 888 NAT JER NIC
^ISRAEL-PRISONERS, 1ST LD-WRITETHRU
^PRECEDE JERUSALEM
^ISRAEL FREES 51 LEBANESE PRISONERS, RELEASES 9 BODIES
^EDS: UPDATES WITH MORE QUOTES, ADDS BYLINE
^BY ARIEH O'SULLIVAN=
^ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

ROSH HANIKRA, ISRAEL (AP) - ISRAEL FREED 51 LEBANESE PRISONERS WEDNESDAY AFTER GETTING CONFIRMATION THAT A MISSING ISRAELI SOLDIER WAS DEAD. IT SAID IT HOPED THE MOVE WOULD HELP RELEASE WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON.

A MILITARY COMMUNIQUE SAID ISRAEL ACTED AFTER RECEIVING ''IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE'' THAT RAHAMIN ALSHEIKH, MISSING SINCE 1986, WAS DEAD.

ISRAEL ALSO REPATRIATED THE BODIES OF NINE MUSLIM GUERRILLAS TO LEBANON, HANDING THEM TO RED CROSS AUTHORITIES AT THE ROSH HANIKRA CHECKPOINT.

THE COMMUNIQUE SAID THE PRISONERS WERE RELEASED FROM THE EL-KHIAM PRISON IN ISRAELI-CONTROLLED SOUTH LEBANON.

AN ARMY SPOKESMAN SAID ALL THE DEAD WERE MEMBERS OF HEZBOLLAH, THE SHIITE MUSLIM MILITIA, KILLED IN CLASHES IN SOUTH LEBANON.

THE STEPS COULD HELP BREAK THE LOGJAM IN HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS AND LEAD TO FREEDOM FOR 11 WESTERNERS MISSING IN LEBANON, ISRAELI OFFICIALS SAID.

ARAB KIDNAPPERS HAVE DEMANDED A GESTURE FROM ISRAEL, AND IT HAS BEEN ASSUMED BY THE ISRAELIS THAT ONLY AN OVERALL PACKAGE DEAL INVOLVING WESTERN HOSTAGES, CAPTURED ARAB GUERRILLAS AND MISSING ISRAELI SERVICEMEN WOULD WORK.

THE ISRAELI STATEMENT SAID WEDNESDAY'S MOVE WAS TIED TO U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR'S EFFORTS TO SECURE AN OVERALL RELEASE OF PRISONERS AND HOSTAGES. PEREZ DE CUELLAR IS IN TEHRAN, MEETING WITH IRANIAN OFFICIALS TO TRY TO RESOLVE THE LEBANON HOSTAGE ISSUE.

DR. YOSSI OLMERT, HEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE, SAID ISRAEL'S ACTION COULD BE SEEN AS ''A MOVE TOWARD RELEASE OF ALL THOSE INNOCENT HOSTAGES'' FROM ISRAEL AND WESTERN NATIONS.

''I'M SURE WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK,'' HE ADDED.

THE ISRAELI STATEMENT SAID ISRAEL ''BELIEVES THAT ITS HUMANITARIAN GESTURE WILL ALSO FACILITATE THE (U.N.) SECRETARY GENERAL'S EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF THE WESTERN HOSTAGES.''

THE EL-KHIAM PRISON IS RUN BY THE SOUTH LEBANON ARMY, ISRAEL'S MILITIA ALLY.

NO INFORMATION WAS GIVEN ON WHICH PRISONERS WERE RELEASED.

THE COMMUNIQUE SAID ISRAEL ASKED LAHAD TO FREE PRISONERS IN RECOGNITION OF PEREZ DE CUELLAR'S EFFORTS TO SECURE AN OVERALL PRISONER RELEASE INCLUDING THE WESTERN HOSTAGES.

''ACCORDINGLY, 51 LEBANESE DETAINEES WERE RELEASED,'' IT SAID.

''WE TOOK THIS INITIATIVE FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS AND AS PROOF OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO MAKE A GESTURE, HOPING THAT SUCH AN INITIATIVE WILL GET A RESPONSE FROM THE PARTIES INVOLVED - THOSE HOLDING SOME OF OUR SOLDIERS AND SOME OF THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS,'' LAHAD TOLD THE VOICE OF SOUTH LEBANON RADIO.

LAHAD SAID HE HOPED THE RELEASE ''WILL HELP PEREZ DE CUELLAR TO SUCCEED IN HIS ATTEMPTS TO RELEASE ALL THE POWS AND THE INNOCENT KIDNAP VICTIMS.''

THE ARMY COMMUNIQUE SAID ISRAEL ALSO ''DECIDED TO RETURN TO LEBANON NINE CORPSES OF HEZBOLLAH TERRORISTS BURIED IN ISRAEL.''

HEZBOLLAH IS THE UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION FOR ISLAMIC GROUPS BELIEVED TO BE HOLDING WESTERN HOSTAGES AND AT LEAST SOME OF THE SEVEN ISRAELI SERVICEMEN WHO HAVE GONE MISSING IN LEBANON SINCE 1982.

THE BODIES ARRIVED IN PINE WOOD COFFINS ABOARD THREE ISRAELI ARMY TRUCKS. EACH COFFIN WAS CARRIED BY FOUR ISRAELI SOLDIERS TO THE ROSH HANIKRA CHECKPOINT, ON A CLIFF OVERLOOKING THE MEDITERRANEAN.

THEY WERE RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS, WHO SAID THE BODIES WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO LEBANESE FAMILIES FOR BURIAL. THE ICRC WAS ASSISTED BY MEMBERS OF THE LEBANESE RED CROSS, WHO WORE ORANGE JUMPSUITS AND HAD SURGICAL MASKS.

FIVE OF THE GUERRILLAS WERE KILLED ON APRIL 18, 1987 IN ONE OF THE BLOODIEST CLASHES RECORDED IN ISRAELI-CONTROLLED SOUTH LEBANON. EIGHTEEN GUERRILLAS WERE KILLED IN THE CLASH, THE ARMY SAID AT THE TIME.

THE MOVES CAME ONE MONTH AFTER PEREZ DE CUELLAR EMERGED AS A MEDIATOR AND ISRAEL CAME UNDER PRESSURE TO EASE HIS MISSION BY RELEASING PRISONERS.

ISRAEL SAID IT WOULD DO SO ONLY IN EXCHANGE FOR HARD INFORMATION ON ITS MISSING MEN. THE WORD ON ALSHEIKH BEING DEAD APPARENTLY BROKE THE LOGJAM.

ALSHEIKH WAS 20 WHEN HE WAS CAPTURED FEB. 17, 1986 IN A LEBANESE GUERRILLA AMBUSH IN THE SECURITY ZONE ISRAEL CONTROLS IN SOUTH LEBANON. CAPTURED WITH HIM WAS ANOTHER ISRAELI SOLDIER, YOSSI FINK, WHO WAS ALSO 20.

''THE AVAILABLE INFORMATION IS INSUFFICIENT TO ESTABLISH SATISFACTORILY HIS (FINK'S) FATE AND EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FURTHER CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE CONTINUES,'' THE ARMY STATEMENT SAID.

IN ROSH HAAYIN, A SUBURB OF TEL AVIV, THE BLINDS WERE DOWN AT THE ALSHEIKH HOME AND THE FAMILY REFUSED TO TALK WITH REPORTERS.

A NEIGHBOR, SARAH TZADOK, TOLD ISRAEL RADIO THAT ALSHEIKH ''WAS A WONDERFUL BOY, UNLIKE ANYBODY.'' SHE BURST INTO TEARS AS SHE DESCRIBED ALSHEIKH, WHO HAD GONE TO SCHOOL WITH HER CHILDREN.

#(AO-EAP-ME)

1554G 11 03 91

RR0139

R I TLA101 INTJ TEL 888 NAT

^ISRAEL-PRISONERS

^URGENT

^ISRAEL FREES 51 LEBANESE PRISONERS, RELEASES 9 BODIES

JERUSALEM (AP) - ISRAEL SAID IT FREED 51 LEBANESE PRISONERS WEDNESDAY AFTER RECEIVING LONG-SOUGHT INFORMATION ABOUT AN ISRAELI SERVICEMAN MISSING IN LEBANON.

A MILITARY COMMUNIQUE SAID ISRAEL WAS ALSO REPATRIATING TO LEBANON THE BODIES OF NINE MUSLIM GUERRILLAS BURIED HERE.

IT SAID THE PRISONERS WERE FREED FROM EL-KHIAM JAIL IN ISRAELI-CONTROLLED SOUTH LEBANON.

IT SAID ISRAEL ACTED AFTER RECEIVING ''IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE'' THAT RAHAMIN ALSHEIKH, MISSING SINCE 1986, WAS DEAD.

^MORE (ME/EAP)

1252G 11 09 91

RR0149

R I TLA182 INTJ TEL 888 NAT

^ISRAEL-PRISONERS, 1ST ADD

^JERUSALEM: WAS DEAD.

EL-KHIAM IS RUN BY THE SOUTH LEBANON ARMY, ISRAEL'S MILITIA ALLY.

THE STATEMENT SAID ISRAEL ASKED THE SLA COMMANDER, COL. ANTOINE LAHAD, TO FREE PRISONERS IN RECOGNITION OF U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR'S EFFORTS TO SECURE AN OVERALL PRISONER RELEASE INCLUDING 11 WESTERN HOSTAGES HELD IN LEBANON.

''ACCORDINGLY, 51 LEBANESE DETAINEES WERE RELEASED,'' IT SAID.

ISRAEL ALSO ''DECIDED TO RETURN TO LEBANON NINE CORPSES OF HEZBOLLAH TERRORISTS BURIED IN ISRAEL,'' IT SAID.

HEZBOLLAH IS THE UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION FOR ISLAMIC GROUPS BELIEVED TO BE HOLDING WESTERN HOSTAGES AND AT LEAST SOME OF THE SEVEN ISRAELI SERVICEMENT WHO HAVE GONE MISSING IN LEBANON SINCE 1982.

THE BODIES WERE EXPECTED TO BE TURNED OVER TO AUTHORITIES IN LEBANON AT 3 P.M. (1300GMT) WEDNESDAY.

^MORE

1315G 11 09 91

RR0151

U I JNA432 INTJ TEL 888 NAT NIC

^ISRAEL-PRISONERS, 2ND ADD

^JERUSALEM: (1300GMT) WEDNESDAY.

THE BODIES WERE BROUGHT TO THE ROSH HANIKRA CHECKPOINT ON THE ISRAEL-LEBANON BORDER IN FOUR ISRAELI ARMY TRUCKS, ISRAEL RADIO SAID.

THE ISRAELI ARMY STATEMENT SAID ISRAEL ''BELIEVES THAT ITS HUMANITARIAN GESTURE WILL ALSO FACILITATE THE (U.N.) SECRETARY GENERAL'S EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF THE WESTERN HOSTAGES.''

NO INFORMATION WAS GIVEN ON WHICH PRISONERS WERE RELEASED. ISRAELI AUTHORITIES SAY 250 TO 300 PRISONERS ARE HELD IN EL-KHIAM.

''WE TOOK THIS INITIATIVE FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS AND AS PROOF OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO MAKE A GESTURE, HOPING THAT SUCH AN INITIATIVE WILL GET A RESPONSE FROM THE PARTIES INVOLVED - THOSE HOLDING SOME OF OUR SOLDIERS AND SOME OF THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS,'' LAHAD TOLD THE VOICE OF SOUTH LEBANON RADIO.

''WE HOPE THEY WILL DO THE SAME AS WE DID FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS, AND WE HOPE THAT OUR INITIATIVE WILL HELP PEREZ DE CUELLAR TO SUCCEED IN HIS ATTEMPTS TO RELEASE ALL THE POWS AND THE INNOCENT KIDNAP VICTIMS, WHO WERE KIDNAPPED IN RECENT YEARS,'' LAHAD SAID.

THE RADIO SAID THE PRISONERS WERE TURNED OVER TO RED CROSS OFFICIALS.

THE MOVES CAME ONE MONTH AFTER PEREZ DE CUELLAR EMERGED AS A MEDIATOR AND ISRAEL CAME UNDER PRESSURE TO EASE HIS MISSION BY RELEASING PRISONERS.

ISRAEL SAID IT WOULD DO SO ONLY IN EXCHANGE FOR HARD INFORMATION ON ITS MISSING MEN. THE WORD ON ALSHEIKH BEING DEAD APPARENTLY BROKE THE LOGJAM.

ALSHEIKH, WAS 20 WHEN HE WAS CAPTURED FEB. 17, 1986 IN A LEBANESE GUERRILLA AMBUSH IN THE SECURITY ZONE ISRAEL CONTROLS IN SOUTH LEBANON. CAPTURED WITH HIM WAS ANOTHER ISRAELI SOLDIER, YOSSI FINK, WHO WAS ALSO 20.

''THE AVAILABLE INFORMATION IS INSUFFICIENT TO ESTABLISH SATISFACTORILY HIS (FINK'S) FATE AND EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FURTHER CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE CONTINUES,'' THE ARMY STATEMENT SAID.

PEREZ DE CUELLAR IS IN IRAN, AND THE STATEMENT SAID HIS EFFORTS TO END THE HOSTAGE CRISIS ''ARE IN PROGRESS AT THIS VERY MOMENT.''

IT ADDED: ''ISRAEL HAS FULL CONFIDENCE IN THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S ENDEAVORS TO BRING THIS TRAGIC AFFAIR TO AN END, AND EXPECTS MORE PROGRESS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.''

^(ME/EAP)

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U I NCB032 NIC INTJ NAT 888

Swap- South

$LEBANON-HOSTAGES

$JIBRIL URGES INCLUSION OF 19,000 PALESTINIANS IN SWAP DEAL

$LASERPHOTO AVAILABLE

$BY RIMA SALAMEH=

$ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

BEIRUT, LEBANON (AP) - A RADICAL PALESTINIAN GUERRILLA LEADER APPEALED SUNDAY TO PRO-IRANIAN KIDNAPPERS TO INCLUDE 19,000 PALESTINIAN DETAINEES IN ANY PRISONERS-FOR-HOSTAGES SWAP WITH ISRAEL.

AHMED JIBRIL, LEADER OF THE POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE-GENERAL COMMAND, MADE THE PLEA AFTER A TWO-HOUR MEETING WITH SHEIK ABBAS MUSAWI, HEAD OF HEZBOLLAH, OR PARTY OF GOD.

''THERE ARE 19,000 PALESTINIANS AS GOOD AS HOSTAGES BECAUSE THEY WERE TAKEN TO PRISONS IN ISRAEL FROM THEIR HOMES WITHOUT ANY GUILT,'' JIBRIL SAID AT A JOINT NEWS CONFERENCE WITH MUSAWI.

''THESE INNOCENT PALESTINIANS, ALONG WITH DOZENS OF INNOCENT LEBANESE CAPTURED FROM THEIR HOMES IN SOUTH LEBANON, SHOULD BE TRADED FOR THE WESTERN HOSTAGES HELD IN LEBANON,'' JIBRIL SAID.

ANOTHER 2,000 PALESTINIANS AND SOME 300 MAINLY LEBANESE GUERRILLAS CAPTURED IN COMBAT WITH THE ISRAELI ARMY SHOULD BE FREED IN EXCHANGE FOR THE SIX MISSING ISRAELI SERVICEMEN IN LEBANON, JIBRIL SAID.

HE SAID MUSAWI, WHOSE HEZBOLLAH IS BELIEVED TO BE THE UMBRELLA FOR THE HOSTAGE-HOLDERS, ''AGREES WITH OUR CONTENTION.''

MUSAWI CAREFULLY AVOIDED ANY REFERENCE TO THE HOSTAGES DURING THE NEWS CONFERENCE, WHICH CAST DOUBT ABOUT THE SERIOUSNESS OF JIBRIL'S PROPOSALS.

JIBRIL HAS LONG BEEN AN ALLY OF IRAN AS WELL AS SYRIA. HIS GROUP WAS LINKED TO THE DECEMBER 1988 MID-AIR BOMBING OF A PAN AM JUMBO JET OVER LOCKERBIE, SCOTLAND, KILLING 270 PEOPLE, ALTHOUGH HE HAS DENIED IT.

AT LEAST NINE WESTERNERS ARE MISSING IN LEBANON - FIVE AMERICANS, A BRITON, TWO GERMANS AND AN ITALIAN. IN ADDITION, BRITON ALEC COLLETT WAS KIDNAPPED IN 1985. BRISITH OFFICIALS SAY HE IS ASSUMED DEAD FOLLOWING CLAIMS THAT HE WAS KILLED IN 1986 IN RETALIATION FOR BRITISH COMPLICITY IN U.S. BOMBING RAIDS ON LIBYA.

U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR IS MAINLY FOCUSING ON THE 300 PRISONERS HELD IN KHIAM WHOSE RELEASE WAS DEMANDED BY ISLAMIC JIHAD, THE KIDNAP GROUP HOLDING AMERICAN HOSTAGES TERRY ANDERSON AND THOMAS SUTHERLAND.

THE DEMAND WAS CONTAINED IN A LETTER FROM ISLAMIC JIHAD THAT WAS RELAYED TO PEREZ DE CUELLAR BY FORMER BRITISH HOSTAGE JOHN MCCARTHY, WHO WAS RELEASED AUG. 8.

AMERICAN HOSTAGE EDWARD TRACY WAS RELEASED FOUR DAYS LATER, AND ISRAEL FREED 51 LEBANESE PRISONERS AND RETURNED THE BODIES OF NINE SHIITE MUSLIM GUERRILLAS SEPT 11.

THAT WAS FOLLOWED BY THE RELEASE OF EX-BRITISH HOSTAGE JACK MANN LAST WEEK AND IRANIAN NEWSPAPERS SAID ANOTHER HOSTAGE, POSSIBLY AN AMERICAN, WOULD BE RELEASED SOON.

$MORE

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U I WCB034 NIC INTJ NRT 333

^LEBANON-HOSTAGES, 1ST ADD

^BEIRUT, LEBANON: RELEASED SOON.

AT THE CONFERENCE AT MUSAWI'S HOME IN SOUTH BEIRUT'S SUBURB OF BIR EL-ABED, THE BLACK-TURBANED HEZBOLLAH CHIEF FOCUSED ON THE NEED TO CARRY ON ANTI-ISRAELI ATTACKS.

''WE HAVE AGREED TO COORDINATE RESISTANCE ACTIVITY AGAINST THE ZIONIST ENEMY BECAUSE ISRAEL UNDERSTANDS ONLY THE LANGUAGE OF THE GUN BARREL,'' MUSAWI SAID.

ISRAEL HAS OCCUPIED A BORDER STRIP IN SOUTH LEBANON SINCE 1985 AS A BUFFER AGAINST CROSS-BORDER GUERRILLA RAIDS. BOTH HEZBOLLAH AND PFLP-GC HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN ATTACKS ON THE ENCLAVE.

BOTH MUSAWI AND JIBRIL CRITIZED PRESIDENT ELIAS HRAWI'S GOVERNMENT'S RELIANCE ON THE UNITED STATES TO PRESSURE ISRAEL INTO WITHDRAWING FROM THE SOUTHERN ENCLAVE.

THE CRITISIZM CAME HOURS AFTER HRAWI RETURNED HOME FROM THE UNITED STATES WITH TOP AIDES SAYING HE HAS OBTAINED U.S. ASSURANCES TO BACK EFFORTS TO LIBERATE THE SOUTH.

PRIME MINISTER OMAR KARAMI, WHO ACCOMPANIED HRAWI ON HIS TRIP, SAID WASHINGTON HAS AGREED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 425 CALLING FOR THE WITHDRAWAL WHETHER OR NOT A MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE TAKES PLACE IN OCTOBER.

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S.C.

^ISRAEL-HOSTAGES

^SHAMIR: ISRAEL IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH U.N. ON HOSTAGES

JERUSALEM (AP) - PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK SHAMIR SAID TUESDAY HE WAS PLEASED BY ASSESSMENTS THAT A LEBANON PRISONER SWAP COULD BE WORKED OUT BY EARLY NEXT MONTH.

SHAMIR WAS REACTING TO REMARKS MONDAY BY U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR THAT HE BELIEVED THE HOSTAGE PROBLEM COULD BE RESOLVED BEFORE HE TRAVELS TO IRAN SEPT. 9.

''WE WERE GLAD TO HEAR THE OPTIMISTIC EXPRESSIONS OF THE U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL. I HOPE HE HAS GOOD NEWS,'' SHAMIR TOLD AIRPORT REPORTERS AS HE DEPARTED ON A VISIT TO BULGARIA.

ISRAEL INSISTS THE DEAL INCLUDE SEVEN OF ITS SERVICEMEN MISSING IN LEBANON, SOME SINCE 1982. IT HAS REJECTED DEMANDS TO SET THE PROCESS IN MOTION BY FREEING SOME OF THE LEBANESE DETAINEES IT HOLDS. IT SAYS IT WILL MAKE NO GESTURES UNTIL IT RECEIVES AUTHORITATIVE INFORMATION ON THE FATE OF ITS MISSING MEN.

SHAMIR SAID ISRAEL WAS IN ''CLOSE CONTACT'' WITH PEREZ DE CUELLAR, AND THAT HE HOPED ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVES WOULD MEET WITH THE U.N. CHIEF IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

''WE'VE HEARD HIS OPTIMISTIC REMARKS, BUT WE HAVE NO MORE NEWS,'' SHAMIR SAID.

PEREZ DE CUELLAR HAS BEEN TRYING TO WORK OUT A SWAP INVOLVING 11 WESTERN HOSTAGES HELD IN LEBANON, THE SEVEN ISRAELIS, AND SOME 400 ARAB DETAINEES HELD BY ISRAEL AND ITS LEBANESE MILITIA ALLIES.

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R I JMB612 INTJ 888 NAT JER NIC

Swap. S.L.

#ISRAEL-HOSTAGES

#ISRAEL READY TO FREE OBEID IN DEAL INCLUDING ITS MIAS, POWS

JERUSALEM (AP) - THE DEFENSE MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAID SATURDAY ISRAEL WOULD RELEASE A JAILED SHIITE MUSLIM CLERIC AS PART OF A DEAL THAT INCLUDED ITS OWN SEVEN SERVICEMEN MISSING IN LEBANON.

DAN NAVEH, SPOKESMAN FOR DEFENSE MINISTER MOSHE ARENS, WAS RESPONDING TO AN IRANIAN SOURCE WHO SAID AMERICAN HOSTAGE TERRY ANDERSON OR BRITISH CHURCH ENVOY TERRY WAITE COULD BE FREED IF ISRAEL RELEASED SHEIK ABDUL KARIM OBEID.

OBEID WAS KIDNAPPED BY ISRAELI COMMANDOS FROM HIS HOME IN LEBANON IN 1989 AS A BARGAINING CHIP. ANDERSON, CHIEF MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, IS THE LONGEST-HELD OF THE WESTERNERS. WAITE, AN ANGLICAN CHURCH ENVOY, WAS KIDNAPPED JAN. 1987.

''ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT ISRAEL IS READY TO RELEASE LEBANESE PRISONERS, INCLUDING OBEID, IN A DEAL THAT WOULD INCLUDE THE RELEASE OF WESTERN HOSTAGES AND THE ISRAELI MIAS AND POWS,'' NAVEH SAID.

ISRAEL AND THE ISRAELI-FINANCED SOUTH LEBANON ARMY HOLD APPROXIMATELY 400 LEBANESE WHOSE FREEDOM HAS BEEN DEMANDED BY A PRO-IRANIAN FACTION HOLDING WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON.

ALSO SATURDAY, IRANIAN PRESIDENT HASHEMI RAFSANJANI ACCUSED ISRAEL OF BLOCKING A HOSTAGE AGREEMENT, HIS ACCUSATION FOLLOWING THAT OF IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRIDAY.

ISRAEL HAS SAID IT IS WILLING TO MAKE A GESTURE THAT COULD INCLUDE FREEING DETAINEES ONCE IT GETS SOLID INFORMATION ON ITS MISSING IN LEBANON.

''IN THE FIRST STAGE WE WANT INFORMATION, BUT THE BOTTOM LINE IS THE RELEASE OF THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS,'' NAVEH SAID.

ISRAEL IS REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT ISRAELI NAVIGATOR, RON ARAD, IS ALIVE. ARAD WAS SHOT DOWN IN 1986 AND WAS CLAIMED CAPTURED BY THE SHIITE AMAL ORGANIZATION.

A DEFENSE OFFICIAL, SPEAKING ON CONDITION OF ANONYMITY, CALLED THE VARIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS RELEASED BY SOURCES CLOSE TO THE KIDNAPPERS RECENTLY ''A VARIETY OF PROPAGANDA TRICKS TO GET WHAT THEY WANT IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY WILL NOT HAVE TO RELEASE ISRAELI SOLDIERS.''

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RR0123
U N NCB002 NCM JMN BTN
MSG==JERUSALEM, BEIRUT

HAVE DFLP STATEMENT CONCERNING ISRAELI AIRMAN SAMIR ASAAD.
DIGGING IN FILES FOR BACKGROUND BUT UNSITE IMMEDIATELY.
IF YOU HAVE AT FINGERTIPS COULD YOU PLEASE UPSEND ASAP.
THX AND RGDS
NC-NGN

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U I NCB048 INTJ NAT 888 JNM

#LEBANON-ISRAELI POWS, 1ST ADD

#BEIRUT: AN ITALIAN

THE ISRAELI SERVICEMEN WITH HEZBOLLAH ARE YOSSI FINK AND RAHAHIM ALSHEIKH. THEY WERE CAPTURED IN A GUERRILLA AMBUSH IN SOUTH LEBANON ON FEB.17, 1986.

MUSAWI LAST WEEK REFERRED TO TWO PRISONERS WITH HEZBOLLAH, A REMARK THAT WAS INTERPRETED AS A CONFIRMATION THESE TWO ARE ALIVE.

ISRAELI NAVIGATOR RON ARAD WAS CAPTURED OCT.16, 1986, WHEN HIS JET WAS SHOT DOWN OVER SOUTH LEBANON. INITIALLY, HE WAS HELD BY MEMBERS OF THE PRO-SYRIAN AMAL MILITIA.

LUBRANI SAID THAT ARAD WAS THEN IN GOOD HEALTH, BUT THAT THE GUYS HOLDING HIM HAVE SINCE DEFECTED TO HEZBOLLAH, AMAL'S RIVAL IN THE SHIITE COMMUNITY, AND THAT THE DEVELOPMENT BROUGHT THE ISRAELI PRISONER UNDER IRANIAN CONTROL.

THERE HAS BEEN NO WORD ON THE FATE OF THE THREE OTHER I

, WHO DISAPPEARED JUNE 11, 1982 ON THE FIFTH DAY OF ISRAEL'S INVASION OF LEBANON. ISRAELIS: SGMK ZACHARY BAUMEL, SGT. ZVI FELDMAN AND CPL. YEHUDA KATZ.

THESE DISAPPEARED ON JUNE 11, 1982, FIVE DAYS AFTER ISRAEL INVADED LEBANON.

#END

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U I NCB046 INTJ NAT 888 JMM
#LEBANON-ISRAELI POWS
#WITH LEBANON-HOSTAGES
#DFLP WILLING TO TRADE BODY OF ISRAELI POW FOR ARAB PRISONERS

BEIRUT, LEBANON (AP) - A PALESTINIAN GUERRILLA GROUP ANNOUNCED THURSDAY THAT IS WILLING TO SWAP THE BODY OF AN ISRAELI PRISONER FOR ARAB DETAINEES AS PART OF A DEAL WHICH COULD ALSO SECURE THE RELEASE OF WESTERN HOSTAGES.

THE MARXIST DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE SAID IN A STATEMENT ''WE ARE CONSTANTLY READY, AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY DECLARED, TO EXCHANGE THE BODY OF ISRAELI SGT. SAMIR ASSAD FOR OUR COMRADES AS WELL AS PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE PRISONERS HELD BY THE ENEMY.''

ASSAD WAS CAPTURED IN SOUTH LEBANON IN 1983. A YEAR LATER, THE DFLP SAID IN A STATEMENT THAT HE WAS KILLED IN AN ISRAELI ATTACK ON ITS BASES ON RABBIT ISLAND, OFF THE NORTHERN CITY OF TRIPOLI.

THE DFLP DID NOT SPECIFY NUMBERS OR ELABORATE ON THE PRISONERS IT WANTS FREED IN RETURN FOR THE BODY.

ISRAEL HAS SAID IT WOULD FREE 300 LEBANESE SHIITE MUSLIMS AND 40 PALESTINIANS CAPTURED IN LEBANON IN RETURN FOR THE REPATRIATION OF SEVEN SERVICEMEN HELD BY LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN GROUPS, AT LEAST TWO OF WHOM ARE BELIEVED ALIVE.

BUT URI LUBRANI, ISRAEL'S POLICY COORDINATOR FOR LEBANON, HAS STRESSED THAT THE SWAP WOULD INVOLVE ONLY DETAINEES AT KHIAM, A VILLAGE IN ISRAELI-OCCUPIED SOUTH LEBANON, AND NOT PALESTINIANS CAPTURED IN THE WEST BANK OR GAZA STRIP WOULD BE INCLUDED IN SUCH A DEAL.

LUBRANI SAID TUESDAY OF THE SEVEN MISSING ISRAELIS, ASSAD, A DRUSE ISRAELI, IS KNOWN TO BE DEAD, ADDING THAT THERE WAS DISCUSSION IN THE PAST ON RETURNING HIS REMAINS.

IN ITS STATEMENT ON THURSDAY, THE DFLP SAID THAT IT HAD PREVIOUSLY SUGGESTED THE SWAP.

''BUT UNTIL TODAY, NO ONE HAS CONTACTED US TO DISCUSS THE EXCHANGE ... ALTHOUGH WE HAD ARRANGED FOR A THE INTERNATIONAL RED NROSS TO EXAMINE AND ASCERTAIN THE IDENTITY OF ASSAD'S CORPSE,'' THE STATEMENT SAID.

THE IRANIAN-BACKED HEZBOLLAH, OR PARTY OF GOD, OFFERED LAST WEEK TO EXCHANGE TWO ISRAELIS IT IS HOLDING FOR ARAB PRISONERS.

HEZBOLLAH'S NEWLY ELECTED LEADER, ABBAS MUSAWI, SAID ISRAEL'S RELUCTANCE TO INCLUDE PALESTINIAN PRISONERS IN THE PROPOSED EXCHANGE WAS HAMPERING A DEAL.

SUCH A DEAL IS WIDELY EXPECTED TO ENTAIL THE RELEASE OF SOME, IF NOT ALL, WESTERN HOSTAGES HELD BY PRO-IRANIAN MILITANTS IN LEBANON.

IRAN, WHICH HAD ARRANGED THE RELEASE OF WESTERN HOSTAGES IN THE PAST, HAS SAID THAT IT WAS WAITING FOR A GOODWILL GESTURE, SUCH AS THE RELEASE OF THE KHIAM PRISONERS, TO RESUME ITS EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE HOSTAGE CRISIS.

THERE ARE 13 WESTERNERS MISSING IN LEBANON AND BELIEVED HELD BY PRO-IRANIAN MILITANTS LINKED TO HEZBOLLAH. THEY ARE SIX AMERICANS, FOUR BRITONS, TWO GERMANS AND AN ITALIAN.

#MORE
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U I NCB044 INTJ NAT 888

S.L.

♦LEBANON-HOSTAGES, 1ST LD-WRITETHRU

♦EDS: AMS. UPDATES WITH MORE QUOTES FROM SHAMSEDDINE, ADDS THAT BROADCAST SEEN AS ISRAELI ENCOURAGEMENT FOR SWAP

♦BY MOHAMMED SALAM=

♦ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

BEIRUT, LEBANON (AP) - TWO MEN IDENTIFIED AS SHIITE MOSLEM DETAINEES HELD BY AN ISRAELI-CONTROLLED MILITIA FRIDAY APPEALED TO THE SPIRITUAL MENTOR OF SHIITE KIDNAPPERS TO SPEED A PRISONER SWAP THAT COULD FREE 13 WESTERN HOSTAGES.

IN THEIR APPEAL, BROADCAST BY THE RADIO STATION OF THE SOUTH LEBANON ARMY MILITIA, THE TWO APPEALED TO SHEIK MOHAMMED HUSSEIN FADLALLAH TO ARRANGE THE RELEASE OF WESTERN HOSTAGES AND ISRAELI SOLDIERS MISSING IN LEBANON IN EXCHANGE FOR SHIITE PRISONERS.

FADLALLAH IS THE SPIRITUAL LEADER OF HEZBOLLAH, OR PARTY OF GOD, BELIEVED TO BE THE PARENT GROUP OF PRO-IRANIAN SHIITE EXTREMISTS HOLDING MOST OF THE WESTERNERS MISSING IN LEBANON.

THE 3,000-STRONG SOUTH LEBANON ARMY HOLDS 300 SHIITES AT A JAIL IN KHIAM, INSIDE THE ISRAELI-CONTROLLED ''SECURITY ZONE'' IN SOUTH LEBANON. SOME 1,000 ISRAELI TROOPS ALSO PATROL THE ZONE.

THE RADIO APPEAL WAS MADE ON THE EVE OF EID AL-ADHA, THE MUSLIM FEAST OF SACRIFICE, A TRADITIONAL TIME FOR PARDONING AND RELEASE OF PRISONERS THROUGHOUT THE MUSLIM WORLD.

THE BROADCAST ON THE MILITIA'S VOICE OF THE SOUTH RADIO WAS SEEN AS AN ISRAELI ATTEMPT TO ENCOURAGE SHIITE LEADERS IN LEBANON TO ARRANGE A PRISONER EXCHANGE.

THE TWO MEN IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS KAMEL ISSA AND SAMIR KASSEM FROM THE SOUTHERN VILLAGE OF YHOMOR AND SAID THEY WERE HEZBOLLAH MEMBERS.

''WE PLEAD WITH THE SPIRITUAL GUIDE OF HEZBOLLAH AND ALL THOSE CONCERNED WHO ARE ACTIVE IN THE HOSTAGE ISSUE TO ACT SWIFTLY ON FINALIZING AN OPERATION TO SWAP THE PRISONERS AND DETAINEES AT KHIAM PRISON FOR THE FOREIGN HOSTAGES, THE ISRAELI SERVICEMEN AND SOUTH LEBANON ARMY MEMBERS HELD BY THE LEBANESE GROUPS,'' KASSEM SAID.

ISSA MADE A SIMILAR APPEAL. NO FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE TWO WERE RELEASED BY THE RADIO.

HEZBOLLAH WITHHELD COMMENT ON THE APPEAL AND REFUSED TO SAY WHETHER KASSEM AND ISSA BELONG TO THE GROUP.

IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, THE HIGHEST-RANKING SHIITE MUSLIM CLERIC IN LEBANON, SHEIK MOHAMMED MEHDI SHAMSEDDINE, REITERATED A PROPOSAL FOR SUCH A PRISONER SWAP AND CONDEMNED HOSTAGE-TAKING.

''I MAINTAIN THIS INITIATIVE OF SWAPPING PRISONERS IN ISRAELI JAILS FOR THE ISRAELI SERVICEMEN AND THE HOSTAGES. THROUGH THIS DEAL WE WOULD SOLVE SEVERAL PROBLEMS,'' SHAMSEDDINE TOLD THE COMMUNIST-RUN VOICE OF THE PEOPLE RADIO.

''WE HAVE SUFFERED A GREAT DEAL OF MORAL AND POLITICAL LOSSES BECAUSE OF THOSE (WESTERN) HOSTAGES, WHOSE ABDUCTION WE DENOUNCE,'' HE SAID.

SHAMSEDDINE HEADS THE HIGHER SHIITE COUNCIL, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE THEOLOGICAL AFFAIRS OF THE 1.2 MILLION SHIITES, THE LARGEST SECT IN LEBANON.

HE INDIRECTLY CALLED ON THE HOSTAGE HOLDERS NOT TO RELEASE THEIR CAPTIVES IF ISRAEL REFUSED TO ORDER THE SLA TO RELEASE THE KHIAM PRISONERS.

''I BELIEVE THAT RELEASING THE HOSTAGES WITHOUT ACHIEVING ANY GAINS FOR THE (SHIITE) PRISONERS WOULD HURT THE PRISONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES,'' SHAMSEDDINE TOLD HIS INTERVIEWER.

♦MORE

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RR0271
U I NCB047 INTJ NAT 888
♦LEBANON-HOSTAGES, 1ST LD-1ST ADD
♦BEIRUT: HIS INTERVIEWER.

SHAMSEDDINE ORIGINALLY MADE HIS PRISONER-SWAP OFFER IN MAY.

HE STRESSED THA HE HAS ''PERSONALLY EXERTED IMMENSE UNANNOUNCED EFFORTS TO RELEASE THE HOSTAGES HELD IN LEBANON. THESE EFFORTS ARE STILL BEING EXERTED.''

''THE PRESENT CLIMATE IN THE REGION IS SUITABLE FOR THE HOSTAGES' RELEASE,'' SHAMSEDDINE SAID, BUT HE NOTED THAT ''NUMEROUS OBSTACLES FACE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS GOAL.''

HE DID NOT ELABORATE.

HEZBOLLAH LEADER ABBAS MUSAWI SAID IN MAY HE WAS PREPARED TO SWAP ONLY THE TWO ISRAELI SERVICEMEN HELD BY HIS GROUP FOR THE 300 SHIITES HELD AT KHIAM, IN ADDITION TO PALESTINIANS HELD IN ISRAELI JAILS.

ISRAEL HAS ACCEPTED THE OFFER BUT SAID IT WANTED THE EXCHANGE TO INCLUDE ITS SEVEN SERVICEMEN MISSING IN LEBANON SINCE 1982 AND THE WESTERN HOSTAGES.

THE REMAINING FIVE ISRAELIS ARE BELIEVED HELD BY OTHER SHIITE GROUPS, PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS AND SYRIA. AT LEAST ONE OF THEM HAS BEEN REPORTED DEAD.

MISSING IN LEBANON ARE SIX AMERICANS, FOUR BRITONS, TWO GERMANS AND AN ITALIAN.

AMERICAN JOURNALIST TERRY ANDERSON, 43, CHIEF MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, IS THE LONGEST-HELD FOREIGN HOSTAGE. HE WAS KIDNAPPED MARCH 16, 1985.

♦END
1532G 21 06 91

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RR0325

S.L.

U I NCB075 INTJ NAT 888

‡LEBANON-HOSTAGES, 2ND LD

‡EDS: SUBS 10TH GRAF BGNG ''HEZBOLLAH WITHHELD...'' WITH THREE NEW GRAFS TO UPDATE WITH HEZBOLLAH LEADER'S REMARKS

‡BY MOHAMMED SALAM=

‡ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

BEIRUT, LEBANON (AP) - TWO MEN IDENTIFIED AS SHIITE MOSLEM DETAINEES HELD BY AN ISRAELI-CONTROLLED MILITIA FRIDAY APPEALED TO THE SPIRITUAL MENTOR OF SHIITE KIDNAPPERS TO SPEED A PRISONER SWAP THAT COULD FREE 13 WESTERN HOSTAGES.

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ISSA MADE A SIMILAR APPEAL. NO FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE TWO WERE RELEASED BY THE RADIO.

IN AN APPARENT COMMENT ON THE PLEA, HEZBOLLAH'S LEADER SHEIK ABBAS MUSAWI BLAMED THE CONTINUATION OF THE HOSTAGE CRISIS ON ''THE WEST'S DISRESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS.''

IN A STATEMENT BROADCAST BY SEVERAL BEIRUT RADIOS, MUSAWI SAID ''THE WEST DISCRIMINATES BETWEEN ONE SET OF HUMAN BEINGS AND ANOTHER, AMOUNTING TO A DOUBLE STANDARD OF HUMAN RIGHTS.''

HE SAID ''THERE SHOULD BE A SIMULTANEOUS SOLUTION FOR ALL THE HOSTAGES AND ALL THE PRISONERS, BE THEY LEBANESE, PALESTINIAN, OR SYRIAN, IN ISRAELI JAILS.''

‡IN A, 11TH GRAF 1ST LD

1829G 21 06 91

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RR0289 South. Swapping
U I NCB037 NCM INTJ NAT 888
‡LEBANON-HOSTAGES
‡ISRAELI-BACKED LEADER DENIES DELAYING SWAP

MARJAYOUN, LEBANON (AP) - THE COMMANDER OF THE ISRAELI-BACKED SOUTH LEBANON ARMY ON TUESDAY DENIED CHARGES THAT HIS MILITIA AND ISRAEL ARE COMPLICATING THE EXCHANGE OF ARAB PRISONERS FOR ISRAELI CAPTIVES.

GEN. ANTOINE LAHD WAS RESPONDING TO REMARKS MADE SUNDAY BY SHEIK SOBHI TUFAILI, THE FORMER LEADER OF THE IRANIAN-BACKED HEZBOLLAH, THAT ISRAEL AND THE SLA WERE PROCRASTINATING ON THE PRISONERS SWAP AND CONSEQUENTLY COMPLICATING THE ISSUE OF THE WESTERN HOSTAGES.

LAHD SAID TUFAILI'S REMARKS ''DO NOT REPRESENT REALITY.''

''THE REALITY IS THAT A LIST HAS BEEN SENT TO HEZBOLLAH THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS WHICH THEY (HEZBOLLAH) HAS NOT RESPONDED TO,'' SAID LAHD. ''IF THEY CONSIDER THEIR LACK OF RESPONSE A COMPLICATION, THEN THIS IS SOMETHING ELSE.''

LAHD WAS REFERRING TO A LIST OF FOUR BODIES AND THREE HEZBOLLAH DETAINEES WHO WOULD BE TURNED OVER BY THE SLA IF THEY REACH AN EXCHANGE AGREEMENT.

LAHD SAID FRIDAY THAT HEZBOLLAH HAD NOT RESPONDED TO HIS OFFER.

AT LEAST 320 MAINLY SHIITE MUSLIM INMATES ARE HELD AT A PRISON IN THE BORDER VILLAGE OF KHIAM, WHICH LIES WITHIN ISRAEL'S THE ZONE ISRAEL CONTROLS IN SOUTH LEBANON.

SHIITE LEADERS, INCLUDING THE CURRENT HEAD OF HEZBOLLAH, ABBAS MUSAWI, HAVE SAID A SWAP WITH ISRAEL COULD GAIN THE FREEDOM OF 13 WESTERNERS MISSING IN LEBANON.

HEZBOLLAH IS BELIEVED TO BE THE PARENT MOVEMENT FOR THE EXTREMIST GROUPS THAT HOLD MOST OF THOSE MISSING, INCLUDING SIX AMERICANS, FOUR BRITONS, TWO GERMANS AND AN ITALIAN.

ISRAEL HAS INSISTED THAT SEVEN ISRAELI SERVICEMEN MISSING SINCE ITS 1982 INVASION OF LEBANON BE INCLUDED IN THE SWAP, AND LAHD WANTS 10 MISSING MILITIAMEN BACK.

‡STR-DA-NGM
1529G 30 07 91

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RR0319 Sway S-L

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^FRANCE-FADLALLAH-ISRAEL, 1ST LD-WRITETHRU

^SHIITE CLERIC SAYS NEXT MOVE IS ISRAEL'S ON HOSTAGE ISSUE

^EDS: CORRECTS TO 400 SHIITES HELD BY ISRAEL, ADDS MORE FADLALLAH COMMENT, ISRAELI REACTION, BACKGROUND, BYLINE

^BY TERRIL JONES=

^ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

PARIS (AP) - ISRAEL MUST MAKE THE NEXT MOVE TOWARD FREEING ALL WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON, THE SPIRITUAL LEADER OF THE RADICAL SHIITE MUSLIM GROUP HEZBOLLAH SAID SUNDAY.

''IT IS NORMAL THAT THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY MADE A GESTURE WAIT FOR A GESTURE IN RETURN TO ASSURE THAT EFFORTS TOWARD A DEFINITIVE SOLUTION ARE SERIOUS,'' SHEIK MOHAMED FADLALLAH SAID IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE FRENCH TELEVISION NETWORK ANTENNE-2.

LEBANESE KIDNAPPERS BELIEVED LOYAL TO HEZBOLLAH, OR PARTY OF GOD, RELEASED THREE WESTERN HOSTAGES EARLIER THIS MONTH. THE KIDNAPPERS, WHO STILL HOLD 11 WESTERNERS HOSTAGE, ARE DEMANDING THE RELEASE OF SOME 400 LEBANESE SHIITES HELD BY ISRAEL AND THE SOUTH LEBANON ARMY, PRO-ISRAELI MILITIAMEN IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.

THEY ALSO ARE DEMANDING THE RELEASE OF SHEIK KARIM OBEID, THE LEADING SPIRITUAL CLERIC FOR ISLAMIC JIHAD, ANOTHER EXTREMIST GROUP, ABDUCTED BY ISRAEL IN 1989.

ISRAEL HAS SAID IT WILL NOT DISCUSS RELEASING ANY OF THE PRISONERS IT HOLDS UNLESS SEVEN ISRAELI SOLDIERS MISSING IN LEBANON ARE RETURNED OR ACCOUNTED FOR.

ISRAEL, HOWEVER, IS UNLIKELY TO MAKE ANY MOVES TO SOLVE THE HOSTAGE ISSUE UNLESS THE WASHINGTON LEANS ON IT HEAVILY, FADLALLAH TOLD ANTENNE-2 FROM BEIRUT.

''THE BALL IS IN THE AMERICANS' COURT,'' HE SAID. ''WE KNOW THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT MAKE ANY CONCESSION ON ITS OWN OBJECTIVES IF THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT EXERT PRESSURE ON IT. THAT IS WHY WE ASK THE WORLD TO WATCH CLOSELY WHAT THE UNITED STATES WILL DO, EITHER IN A POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE SENSE.''

IN JERUSALEM, A DEFENSE MINISTRY SPOKESMAN REJECTED FADLALLAH'S DEMAND AND REITERATED ISRAEL'S INSISTENCE ON AN ACCOUNTING OF ITS MISSING SERVICEMEN.

''NO FACTOR HAS ANY MORAL RIGHT TO DEMAND A GESTURE FROM ISRAEL AS LONG AS IT HOLDS MISSING AND PRISONERS AND REFRAINS FROM SHOWING A BASIC HUMANE APPROACH OF PROVIDING RELIABLE INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR FATES,'' SPOKESMAN DAN NAVEH SAID.

NAVEH NOTED THAT 40 SHIITES WERE FREED BY ISRAEL LAST OCTOBER ''WITH ISRAEL'S ENCOURAGEMENT AS A GESTURE, BUT IT BROUGHT NO CONCRETE RESULTS.''

FADLALLAH ALSO ACCUSED WASHINGTON OF TRYING TO MANIPULATE THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO ITS ADVANTAGE. THE KIDNAPPERS HAVE ASKED U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR TO ARRANGE THE RELEASE OF THE IMPRISONED SHIITES AND OBEID AS PART OF AN OVERALL PRISONER-HOSTAGE EXCHANGE.

''WE FEAR THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO COMPLICATE THIS AFFAIR AS IT HAS ALREADY DONE IN THE PAST FOR POLITICAL REASONS LINKED TO THE NEXT ELECTIONS,'' FADLALLAH SAID.

''THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT WANT TO GIVE THE U.N. AN INDEPENDENT ROLE,'' HE SAID. ''THE AMERICANS WILL NOT SUPPORT THE U.N. UNLESS IT PLACES ITSELF UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE AMERICANS AND SERVES THEIR INTERESTS.''

FADLALLAH SAID HEZBOLLAH WANTS ''TO CLOSE THE FILE (ON HOSTAGE-TAKING) DEFINITIVELY SO LEBANON CAN BECOME A COUNTRY IN WHICH ALL FOREIGNERS FEEL SAFE AND IN TOTAL FREEDOM.''

BRITISH JOURNALIST JOHN MCCARTHY AND AMERICAN WRITER EDWARD TRACY WERE RELEASED ON AUG. 8 AND 11, RESPECTIVELY, AFTER BEING HELD IN LEBANON FOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS EACH.

FRENCH AID WORKER JEROME LEYRAUD WAS ABDUCTED AUG. 8 BUT FREED ONLY THREE DAYS LATER, APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF PRESSURE FROM HEZBOLLAH NOT TO WIDEN THE HOSTAGE CRISIS.

(TJ-VAR)

2313G 18 08 91

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^FRANCE-FADLALLAH-ISRAEL

^SHIITE CLERIC SAYS NEXT MOVE IS ISRAEL'S ON HOSTAGE ISSUE

PARIS (AP) - MUSLIM EXTREMISTS HOLDING WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON ARE WAITING FOR ISRAEL TO MAKE A MOVE TOWARD RESOLVING THE HOSTAGE ISSUE, THE SPIRITUAL LEADER OF THE EXTREMISTS SAID SUNDAY.

''IT IS NORMAL THAT THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY MADE A GESTURE WAIT FOR A GESTURE IN RETURN TO ASSURE THAT EFFORTS TOWARD A DEFINITIVE SOLUTION ARE SERIOUS,'' SHEIK MOHAMED FADLALLAH SAID IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW.

FADLALLAH, SPIRITUAL LEADER OF THE RADICAL SHIITE MUSLIM GROUP HEZBOLLAH, SPOKE FROM BEIRUT WITH THE FRENCH TELEVISION NETWORK ANTENNE-2.

KIDNAPPERS HOLDING 11 WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON ARE BELIEVED CONTROLLED BY THE PRO-IRANIAN HEZBOLLAH, OR PARTY OF GOD. THREE WESTERN HOSTAGES WERE RELEASED IN BEIRUT ON AUG. 8 AND 11.

FADLALLAH ALSO URGED THE UNITED STATES TO PUT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP IN RESOLVING THE HOSTAGE CRISIS, WHICH HAS CONTINUED FOR MORE THAN SIX YEARS.

''THE BALL IS IN THE AMERICANS' COURT,'' FADLALLAH TOLD ANTENNE-2.

''WE KNOW THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT MAKE ANY CONCESSION ON ITS OWN OBJECTIVES IF THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT EXERT PRESSURE ON IT,'' HE SAID. ''THAT IS WHY WE ASK THE WORLD TO WATCH CLOSELY WHAT THE UNITED STATES WILL DO, EITHER IN A POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE SENSE.''

THE KIDNAPPERS ARE SEEKING THE RELEASE OF SOME 375 LEBANESE SHIITES HELD BY ISRAEL AS PART OF AN OVERALL PRISONER-HOSTAGE EXCHANGE.

(TJ-VAR)

2154G 18 08 91

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U I NCB085 INTJ NAT 888U
#LEBANON-HOSTAGES, 2ND LD-WRITETHRU
#LASEGPHOTOS AVAILABLE
#EDS: INCLUDES WIFE'S REAX, MORE QUOTES, BACKGROUND,8BYLINE.
INCLUDES HREE
EXTRA WORDS 'ANY DISCUSSION OF' IN FIRST QUOOE.
#BY RUDEINA KENAAN=
#ASSOCIATED QRESS 48534=

Swapping
South

BEIRUT, PEBANON (AP) - A FUPR ENTALIST PRO-IRANIAN GROUP SCOFFED TUESDAY AT U.S. ATTEMPTS 0 FREA WESTERN HOSTAGES ''WITHOUT A PRICE,'' AND REITERATED ITS DEMAND THAT ISRAEL FREE 400 ARAB PRISONERS.

''WE BASICALLY REFUSE ANY DISCUSSION OF ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE EXCEPT ON THE BASIS OF RELEASING 400 PRISONERS. OTHERWISE LET THIS ISSUE REMAIN HANGING ON THE BLACKBOARD OF DESTINY,'' SAID THE ARABIC LANGUAGE STATEMENT FROM THE ISLAMIC JIHADFOR THE LIBERATION MJI)3'58,3.

T E SHIITE MUULIM FACTION DE
8O THE INDEPENDENT BEIRUT NEWSPBBEREBN+NBHRRPBZRBTMEQUSURTEMENT PHOTOGRAPH OF U.S. OSTAGE ALANN STEEN, 52.

THE STATEMENT WAS RELEASED IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF INCREASED SPECULATION THAT THE END OF THE GULF WAR, AND RESTORATION OF CALM TO BEIRUT AFTER 16 YEARS OF CIVIL WAR, MIGHT BE FMICWED BY A RESOLUTION OF THE HOSTAGE CRISIS.

IT SAID THE UNITED STATES WAS ''BEGGING FOR INTERMEDIARIES HERE AND THERE TO HELP HER WIN THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES WITHOUT A PRICE. ... WE ASSURE THE U.S. THAT BOTH OF US HAVE A PROLONGED CONFLICT AND A BITTER WAR THAT WILL END ONLY BY CHOPPING HEADS AND HANDS TO EXPEL YOU FR
M THE AREA.''

THE INSTANT PHOTO OF STEEN APPEARED TO BE NEW BECAUSE IT SHOWED THE JOURNAWISM PROFESSOR FROM BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS WITH A BHACK, BUSHY BEARD. ALL PREVIOUS PICTURES OF HIM IN CAPTIVITY SHOWED HIM CLEAN-SHAVEN.

''IT'S THE FIRST NEWS WE HAD IN AGES ABOUT HIM AND ANY NEWS IS GOOD NEWS,'' STEEN'S WIFE, VIRGINIA ROSE, TOLD A FRIEND WHO TELEPHONDD HER IN THE U.S. STATE OFNMICHIGAN.

STEEN WAS SHOWN IN A WHITE TRACK SUIT, SITTING, AND STARING STRAIGHT INTO THE CAMERA.

ISLAMIC JIHAD FORTHELLIBERATION OF GALESTINE HAD MADE A SIMILAR DEMAND ON MARCH 19, RELEASING A PICTURE OF THE OTHER HOSTAGE IT HOLDS, JESSE TURNER. AT MQ TIME THE GROUP DID NOT SPECIFY HOW MANY ARAB PRISONERS HAD TO BE FREED BY ISRAEL. BUT IT SAID THE FREEING OF SHEIK ABDUL KARIM OBEID, LEADER OF THE SHIITE MUSLIM HEZBOLLAH GROUP,8WOULD BE ''AN ENCOURAGING PRELUDE.''

THE NEW STATEMENT DID NOT SAY WHICH 400 PRISONERS IT MEANT. IN THE PAST THE GROUP HAS DEMANDED 41-0)3?-,3'3 -,# 0-)3'58,8-,' 85 '-6' 8'4-3) @-' 8, :7'59#6.

ISRAEL HAS OFFERED TO RELEASE LEBANESE PRISONERS AND OBEID AS PART OF A GENERAL SWAP FOR FOREIGN HOSTAGES AND ISRAELI SOLDIERS MISSING IN LEBANON. OBEID WAS KIDNAPPED FROM HIS SOUTH LEBANON HOME IN JULY, 1989 BY ISRAELI COMMANDOS.

ISRAEL HOLDS DOZENS OF OTHER LEBANESE IN ITS PRISONS. ITS ALLIED SOUTH LEBANON ARMY, A CHRISTIAN MILITIA, HAS CUSTODY OF 360 LEBANESE CAPTURED DURING RAIDS AND BATTLES IN THE AREA ALONG ISRAEL'S NORTHERN BORDER.

#MORE

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U I NCB087 INTJ NAT 888W

#LEBANON-HOSTAGES, 2ND LD-1ST ADD

#BEIRUT: NORTHERN BORDER.

ISRAEL HAS PROMISED TO RELEASE SOME 300 PALESTINIANS HELD IN ITS JAILS FOR ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE UPRISING IN THE OCCUPIED AREAS, BUT HAS STRESSED THE RELEASE IS NOT LINKED TO THE HOSTAGE ISSUE.

ABOUT 120 PALESTINIANS HAD BEEN FREED AS OF MONDAY IN THE RELEASE DESCRIBED AS A GOODWILL GESTURE MARKING THE MUSLIM EID AL-ADHA HOLIDAY.

STEEN, AND TURNER, 43, WERE KIDNAPPED ON JAN. 24, 1987 FROM THE CAMPUS OF THE U.S.-AFFILIATED BEIRUT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, WHERE THEY WORKED. THE GUNMEN POSED AS LEBANESE RIOT POLICE.

TWO OTHER PROFESSORS KIDNAPPED WITH THEM - MITHELESHWAR SINGH AND ROBERT POLHILL -- WERE FREED IN 1988 AND 1989, RESPECTIVELY.

THE GROUP ISSUED A STATEMENT IN MARCH SAYING THE HOSTAGES WOULD NOT BE RELEASED UNLESS ARABS HELD IN ISRAELI PRISONS WERE FREED.

TURNER IS A MATHEMATICS PROFESSOR FROM BOISE, IDAHO.

THE 13 WESTERNERS MISSING IN LEBANON ARE SIC AMERICANS, FOUR BRITONS, TWO GERMAND AND AN ITALIAN.

THEY ARE HELD BY SEVERAL FACTIONS, MOSTLY PRO-IRANIAN SHIITE MUSLIM GROUPS, WHOSE PARENT ORGANIZATION IS HEZBOLLAH.

THE LONGEST-HELD WESTERN HOSTAGE IS TERRY ANDERSON, CHIEF MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, WHO WAS KIDNAPPED MARCH 16, 1985.

#END(RK-JP-LAK)

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ms. this jerusalem sty on israeli navigator, dated sep. 2, 1988:

israel-prisoner

jer (ap) - the israeli army said friday it was working for the speedy release of an air navigator captured in leb and that it holds amal responsible for his health.

a stam from the military command read to reporters by phone said israel questioned the credibility and source of recent reports from lebanon that nav ron arad, 30, was in poor health.

but, it added: israel stresses and reiterates it considers the amal organization, and its leader, (berri) responsible for the health and safety of the navigator and hopes all necessary steps will be taken in keeping with this responsibility.

israel will continue to work to return the nav safe and sound asap, added the stam, which was broadcast by israel radio.

lebanese miliamen shot down arad s phantom fighter with a shoulder-launched sam-7 missile during an oct. 16 bombing mission in south lebanon. the pilot was rescued by helicopter.

since his capture, israel has announced that arad was being held by amal.

the army s stam follows a radio appeal made by arad s wife, tami, saying she and their 3-year-old daughter had not received any info about her husband in more than a year.

the hardest thing is the uncertainty and lack of contact, mrs. arad told israel army radio on july 21. if i could only know how he is, and what he does, and whether he s in good health, it would be easier.

she also urged her husbnd to be strong and added, we shall do everything so that we can be together...

five other israelis are missing in action in lebanon.

two, captured in feb. 86, are believed held by hezbollah. three others have been reported missing since a tank battle with ytian forces in eastern leb on june 11, 82.

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ISRAEL-HOSTAGES

SHAMIR DENIES REPORTED SPY EXCHANGE NEGOTIATIONS

JERUSALEM (AP) - PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK SHAMIR ON TUESDAY DENIED A NEWSPAPER REPORT THAT HIS COUNTRY WAS INVOLVED IN SECRET TALKS FOR A SPY SWAP THAT WOULD ALSO GAIN FREEDOM FOR NINE U.S. HOSTAGES HELD IN LEBANON.

''THESE ARE ONLY RUMORS WHICH HAVE NO BASIS IN REALITY,'' SHAMIR TOLD REPORTERS WHILE TOURING THE NORTHERN TOWN OF YOQNEAM.

ACCORDING TO MONDAY'S REPORT IN THE NEW YORK POST, ISRAEL'S ROLE IN THE DEAL WOULD BE FREEING MARCUS KLINBERG, REPORTEDLY A SOVIET AGENT HELD IN ISRAEL.

IN EXCHANGE, THE NEWSPAPER SAID, THE SOVIET UNION WOULD USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH SYRIA TO GET AMERICAN HOSTAGES FREED FROM LEBANON, WHILE THE UNITED STATES WOULD RELEASE JONATHAN POLLARD, WHO IS SERVING A LIFE SENTENCE AFTER BEING CONVICTED OF SPYING FOR ISRAEL.

END (SMS-GGL)

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Swapping of Israeli
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U I NCB041 01 NAT 888
LEBANON-ISRAEL

SHIITE CLERIC SAYS ICRC TO MEDIATE SWAP OF ISRAELI AIRMAN

TYRE, LEBANON (AP) - A SHIITE MOSLEM OFFICIAL SAID FRIDAY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS HAS OFFERED TO ARRANGE THE SWAP OF AN ISRAELI NAVIGATOR CAPTURED IN SOUTH LEBANON FOR LEBANESE DETAINEES HELD BY ISRAEL AND ITS MILITIA ALLIES.

''THE ICRC HAS ASKED US TO RELEASE THE ISRAELI AIRMAN SO THAT ALL THE LEBANESE HELD IN THE PRISONS OF ISRAEL AND ITS ALLIES BE RELEASED,'' SAID ABDUL AMIR QABALAN, THE SHIITE MUFTI, OR RELIGIOUS JUDGE.

''WE CALL ON THOSE WHO HAVE THE ISRAELI PRISONER UNDER THEIR CONTROL TO COOPERATE WITH US AND WITH THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS TO RESCUE OUR BRETHREN HELD BY ISRAEL,'' THE WHITE-TURBANED QABALAN TOLD A RALLY IN THE VILLAGE OR DEIR QANOUN, NORTHEAST OF TYRE.

THE RALLY, ATTENDED BY ABOUT 10,000 PEOPLE, WAS SPONSORED BY THE MAINSTREAM SHIITE MOSLEM AMAL MILITIA TO COMMEMORATE MEMBERS KILLED IN ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL SINCE THE 1982 ISRAELI INVASION.

''WE HAVE AILING BRETHREN SUFFERING IN ISRAELI PRISONS,'' QABALAN TOLD THE CROWD.

HUNDREDS OF LEBANESE ARE BELIEVED HELD IN DETENTION CENTERS IN ISRAEL'S SELF-PROCLAIMED SECURITY ZONE IN SOUTH LEBANON. THE SECURITY SONE, SET UP IN 1985, IS PATROLLED JOINTLY BY ISRAELI TROOPS AND THEIR ALLIED SOUTH LEBANON ARMY MILITIA.

ICRC OFFICIALS COULD NOT BE REACHED FOR COMMENT ON QABALAN'S REMARKS.

AMAL HAD CLAIMED IT CAPTURED THE ISRAELI AIRMAN, RON ARAD, WHEN HIS PLANE CRASHED IN SOUTH LEBANON WHILE ON A BOMBING MISSION ON OCT. 16, 1986.

A SENIOR SHIITE SOURCE, SPEAKING ON CONDITION OF ANONYMITY, SAID AMAL ''LOST CONTROL'' OF ARAD WHEN ITS LEADERSHIP SACKED ITS SECURITY CHIEF, MUSTAFA DIRANI, ON FEB. 26, 1988, ACCUSING HIM OF COLLABORATING WITH THE PRO-IRANIAN FUNDAMENTALIST HEZBOLLAH, OR PARTY OF GOD.

AMAL AND HEZBOLLAH HAVE BEEN LOCKED IN A BLOODY POWER-STRUGGLE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS.

DIRANI HAS REBASED IN THE SYRIAN-POLICED BEKAA VALLEY IN EAST LEBANON. HE NOW HEADS HIS OWN MILITIA, KNOWN AS THE FAITHFUL RESISTANCE MOVEMENT.

''DIRANI TOOK THE ISRAELI AIRMAN WITH HIM. AMAL DOES NOT CONTROL HIM ANYMORE,'' THE SOURCE SAID.

END

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Swapping

WS027 INTJ WAT 888 TLW
#LEBANON-HOSTAGES, 1ST LD-WRITETHRU
#LAHD: RELEASE OF SOME SHIITES LCKELY, NO DEAL FOR HOSTAGES
#EDS: RECASTES THROUGHOUT.
#LASERPHOTO AVAILABLE
#BY MOHAMMED SALAM=
#ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

MARJAYOUN, LEBANON (AP) - THE HEAD OF AN ISRAELI-RUN CHRISTIAN MILITIA IN SOUTH LEBANON SAID FRIDAY HE WILL TRADE SHIITE MUSLIM CAPTIVES FOR HIS OWN MEN, BUT REJECTED FREEING THE NUMBERS DEMANDED BY THE CAPTORS OF WESTERN HOSTAGES.

''I AM NOT WILLING TO FREE THE KHIAM (PRISON) INMATES... JUST FOR THE SAKE OF THE WESTERN HOSTAGES WHILE SOME OF MY MEN AND SOLDIERS OF ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCE ARE STILL MISSING,'' SAID ANTOINE LAHD, COMMANDER OF THE SOUTH LEBANON ARMY.

LAHD SAID THE PRO-IRANIAN HEZBOLLAH PROPOSED A SWAP TWO WEEKS AGO THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS.

''IF THEY INCLUDE ISRAELI SERVICEMEN IN THE SWAP, I WILL RELEASE A LARGER NUMBER FROM KHIAM. IF THEY THROW IN THE (WESTERN) HOSTAGES, WE WILL FREE EVEN LARGER NUMBERS,'' HE SAID.

''ANY SWAP HAS TO BE BALANCED,'' SAID THE MILITIA CHIEFTAN IN AN INTERVIEW AT THE TILED-ROOF, STONE-BUILT HEADQUARTERS IN THIS BORDER TOWN.

''IF THEY WANT THE DETAINEES TO BE FREED ONE BY ONE OR IN A GROUP, IT DOESN'T MATTER.''

LAHD SAID ONLY A LIMITED SWAP HAD BEEN PROPOSED, NO PACKAGE DEAL, AND HE HAD STILL NOT HEARD BACK FROM THEM AFTER HE AGREED.

THE 3,500-STRONG SLA IS FINANCED, TRAINED AND ARMED BY ISRAEL. ITS HELPS PATROL THE ZONE ISRAEL CONTROLS IN SOUTH LEBANON, INCLUDING THE DETENTION CENTER IN THE VILLAGE OF KHIAM.

LAHD, A RETIRED LEBANESE ARMY GENERAL, SAID ''JUST OVER 300'' INMATES ARE HELD AT KHIAM. HE REFUSED TO GIVZE AN EXACT FIGURE.

THERE ARE 13 WESTERNERS MISSING IN LEBANON - SIX AMERICANS, FOUR BRITONS, TWO GERMANS AND AN ITALIAN. MOST OF THEM ARE BELIEVED HELD BY SHIITE ZEALOTS LINKED TO HEZBOLLAH, OR PARTY OF GOD.

SHIITE LEADERS, INCLUDING THE HEAD OF HEZBOLLAH, ABBAS MUSAWI, HAVE SAID THE HOSTAGES COULD BE FREED IN RETURN FOR ALL THOSE HELD IN KHIAM.

ISRAEL HAS INSISTED THAT SEVEN SERVICEMEN MISSING SINCE ITS 1982 INVASION OF LEBANON BE INCLUDED IN THE SWAP, AND LAHD WANTS 10 MISSING MILITIAMEN BACK.

MOST OF THE KHIAM INMATES ARE MEMBERS HEZBOLLAH OR OTHER SHIITE AND LEFTIST GROUPS INVOLVED IN A GUERRILLA WARFARE AGAINST ISRAELI TROOPS AND THE SLA IN SOUTH LEBANON.

THEY ARE SEEKING THE LIBERATION OF THE 1,100-SQUARE-KILOMETER (440-SQUARE-MILE) PIECE OF LAND OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL TO PROTECT ITS NORTHERN TERRITORY FROM CROSS-BORDER RAIDS.

LAHD SAID NOT ALL THE INMATES AT KHIAM WERE BEING HELD ON POLITICAL CHARGES AND THAT SOME, IMPRISONED FOR CRIMINAL OFFENSES, WOULD NOT BE FREED. HEZBOLLAH IS CERTAIN TO OBJECT TO THE EXCLUSION OF ANY ONE AT KHIAM IN THE EVENT OF A PACKAGE DEAL.

THE MILITIA CHIEF SAID THE HEZBOLLAHMESSAGE PROPOSED SWAPPING THE REMAINS OF FMUR SLAIN SLA MEN AND THREE CAPTURED ALIVE.

#MORE
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     U I NCB028 INTJ RAT 888 TLM
#LEBANON-HOSTAGES, 1ST ADD
#MARJAYOUN: CAPTURED ALIVE.
   ''I SENT BACK WORD THROUGH THE RED CROSS THAT I AM READY FOR A
SWAP, AND GAVE THEM A LIST OF FOUR BODIES AND THREE HEZBOLLAH
DETAINEES'' WHO WOULD BE TURNED OVER BY THE SLA IF AN AGREEMENT IS
REACHED.@,

        04@85'S VERY STRANGE THAT I HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED A REPLY F
ROM
THEM'' HE SAID, ADDING THAT HE HAS NO WORD ON THE FATE OF THREE
OTHER MISSING MILITIAMEN WHO WERE NOT MENTIONED IN HEZBOLLAH'S
MESSAGE.
   THE LONGEST-HELD OF THE WESTERN HOSATGES IS AMERICAN JOURNALIST
TERRY ANDERSON. ANDERSON, CHIEF MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT FOR THE
ASSOCIATED PRESS, WAS KIDNAPPED MARCH AQYN QOITM
   ISLAMIC JIHAD, OR HOLY WAR, WHICH HAD CLAIMED ANDERSON'S
ABDUCTION, LAST WEEK RELEASED A PICTURE OF HIM IN CAPTIVITY.
   IT ACCOMPANIED A STATEMENT THAT WARNED OF ''GRAVE
CONSEQUENCES'' IF TWO SHIITE BROTHERS JAILED IN GERMANY WERE NOT
FREED.
   MOHAMMED ALI HAMADI WAS SENTENCED TO LIFE FOR KILLING AN
AMERICAN SAILOR DURING THE 1985 HIJACKING OF A TWA JETLINER.
   HIS BROTHER, ABBAS, WHO WAS IS SERVING A PRISON TERM ON
KIDNAPPING CHARGES, WAS INJURED IN PRISON VIOLENCE EARLIER THIS
MONTH.
#MS-NGM
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RR0379
U I NCE043 INT 888 NAT
#LEBANON-ISRAELI PRISONERS
#WITH LEBANON-HOSTAGES
#PALESTINIAN GROUP OFFERS PRISONER SWAP WITH ISRAEL
#BY RODEINA KENAAN=
#ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

BEIRUT, LEBANON (AP) - A PALESTINIAN GROUP SAID THURSDAY IT WOULD HELP EXCHANGE ISRAELI CAPTIVES FOR ARABS DETAINED BY THE JEWISH STATE, A MOVE THAT COULD HELP FREE WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON.

THE GROUP, CALLING ITSELF THE MOVEMENT OF ISLAMIC JIHAD IN PALESTINE, DEMANDED ISRAEL RELEASE ''ALL PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE PRISONERS IN ISRAELI JAILS,'' INCLUDING THREE MEN AND A WOMAN IT NAMED.

THE GROUP, APPARENTLY MADE UP OF SHIITE MUSLIMS, SAID ONCE THIS WAS DONE, IT WOULD LET THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS VISIT ISRAELI SERVICEMEN MISSING IN LEBANON.

ISRAEL IS SEEKING INFORMATION ON SEVEN OF ITS SERVICEMEN MISSING IN LEBANON, SOME SINCE 1982.

THE STATEMENT DID NOT SPECIFY HOW MANY OF THE SEVEN THE RED CROSS COULD SEE. SOME HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO BE DEAD.

THE STATEMENT SAID THE OFFER WAS MADE AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER MUSLIM GROUPS, INCLUDING THE ISLAMIC RESISTANCE.

THAT GROUP INCLUDES THE SHIITE FUNDAMENTALIST HEZBOLLAH, OR PARTY OF GOD.

IT IS BELIEVED TO BE THE PARENT MOVEMENT FOR SHIITE GROUPS HOLDING MOST OF THE 13 WESTERNERS MISSING IN LEBANON. IT ALSO CLAIMS TO HOLD TWO OF THE ISRAELIS.

ISRAEL REPONDED BY SAYING IT WAS READY TO DISCUSS A PRISONER EXCHANGE WITH ANY ORGANIZATION THAT COULD PROVE IT WAS HOLDING ISRAELIS.

A STATEMENT ISSUED IN JERUSALEM SAID THE PROPOSAL WAS ''VAGUE,'' ADDING THAT IT DID ''NOT CLARIFY WHICH ISRAELI PRISONERS THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT AND WE HAVE NO PROOF TO AUTHENTICATE THIS ORGANIZATION'S CLAIM THAT IT, OR THE ORGANIZATION CALLING ITSELF ISLAMIC RESISTANCE, IS HOLDING ISRAELI PRISONERS.''

IT SAID ISRAEL WAS WILLING TO CONSIDER ANY PROPOSAL ''ON CONDITION THAT IT RECEIVES SIGNS OF LIFE, OR PROOF ABOUT ITS PRISONERS AND MISSING MEN, AND VERIFICATION THAT THEY ARE BEING HELD BY THOSE MAKING THE PROPOSALS.''

THE PALESTINIAN STATEMENT WAS SIGNED BY DR. FATHI IBRAHIM SHAQAQI, WHO WAS DEPORTED TO JORDAN FROM THE ISRAELI-OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP SEVERAL YEARS AGO. HE IS CURRENTLY BELIEVED TO BE IN LEBANON.

THE SHIITE FACTIONS HOLDING THE WESTERNERS HAVE LINKED THE MEN'S RELEASE TO THE FATE OF THE ARABS HELD BY ISRAEL AND ITS LEBANESE MILITIAS ALLY, THE SOUTH LEBANON ARMY.

LAST MONTH HEZBOLLAH DECLARED ITS WAS WILLING TO TRADE THE ISRAELI PRISONERS FOR ABOUT 400 ARAB PRISONERS HELD BY THE SLA.

ONLY HOURS AFTER THE OFFER, THE SHIITE ISLAMIC JIHAD, ONE OF THE GROUPS IN HEZBOLLAH, RELEASED A BLACK-AND-WHITE PHOTOGRAPH OF AMERICAN HOSTAGE TERRY ANDERSON, AND THREATENED ''GRAVE CONSEQUENCES'' IF TWO SHIITE BROTHERS WERE NOT PROMPTLY RELEASED FROM GERMAN PRISONS.

#MORE
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#LEBANON-ISRAELI PRISONERS, 1ST ADD

#BEIRUT: GERMAN PRISONS

THE STATEMENT ACCUSED THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT OF SUBJECTING CONVICTED TERRORISTS MOHAMMED ALI HAMADI, AND HIS BROTHER, ABBAS, TO ''DELIBERATE MURDER ATTEMPTS IN ADDITION TO VARIOUS FORMS OF PHYSICAL AND MENTAL TORTURE.''

ABBAS HAMADI WAS STABBED MONDAY AT A PRISON IN SAARLAND STATE. GERMAN POLICE SAID HE WAS SLIGHTLY WOUNDED, WAS TREATED AT A HOSPITAL AND RETURNED TO THE PRISON.

BESIDES ANDERSON, CHIEF MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS KIDNAPPED IN BEIRUT MARCH 16, 1985, ISLAMIC JIHAD ALSO HOLDS SCOTTISH-BORN AMERICAN EDUCATOR THOMAS SUTHERLAND. HE WAS KIDNAPPED JUNE 9, 1985.

FOUR OTHER AMERICANS, FOUR BRITONS, TWO GERMANS AND AN ITALIAN ARE ALSO MISSING IN LEBANON.

THE MOVEMENT OF THE ISLAMIC JIHAD IN PALESTINE HAS NEVER BEFORE INVOLVED ITSELF IN THE PRISONER DRAMA.

IT IS BELIEVED LINKED TO HAMAS, THE FUNDAMENTALIST MUSLIM PALESTINIAN GROUP ACTIVE IN THE 44-MONTH-OLD UPRISING AGAINST ISRAELI OCCUPATION IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP.

NEITHER HAMAS NOR ISLAMIC JIHAD IN PALESTINE HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO HOLD ANY OF THE MISSING ISRAELI SERVICEMEN.

THE ISLAMIC JIHAD IN PALESTINE STATEMENT SAID: ''ONCE THE FOUR STRUGGLERS ARE FREED AND THE ISRAELI ENEMY DECLARES THROUGH AN OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN A PLEDGE TO FREE ALL THE OTHER PRISONERS ... THE ICRC WILL BE IMMEDIATELY ABLE TO VISIT THE CAPTIVES OF THE ISRAELI ENEMY.''

THE FOUR IT WANTS FREED ARE:

- ITAF ALEYAN, 27, FROM BETHLEHEM. SHE WAS ARRESTED FOUR YEARS AGO, SHORTLY BEFORE SHE WAS ABOUT TO DRIVE A CAR BOMB INTO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE IN JERUSALEM. SHE ALSO TRIED TO MURDER A PRISON GUARD.
- SHEIK AHMED YASSIN, HAMAS' DISABLED SPIRITUAL LEADER. HE WAS ARRESTED TWO YEARS AGO AND IS CURRENTLY ON TRIAL FOR HIS ALLEGED ROLE IN A SERIES OF TERRORIST ACTIONS, INCLUDING THE KIDNAPPING AND KILLING OF TWO ISRAELI SOLDIERS.
- NIDAL ABDUL-RAZZAK SALLOUM. HE STABBED TWO ELDERLY PEOPLE TO DEATH AT A JERUSALEM BUS STOP TWO YEARS AGO.
- ABDEL HADI GHANEM, 27, FROM NUSERIAT REFUGEE CAMP IN GAZA. TWO YEARS AGO, HE SEIZED AN ISRAELI BUS AND DROVE IT OVER A CLIFF. FIFTEEN ISRAELIS AND TWO CANADIAN TOURISTS WERE KILLED.

HEZBOLLAH HAD PREVIOUSLY DEMANDED SALLOUM AND GHANEM'S RELEASE.

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#ISRAEL-HOSTAGES

#MILITIA LEADER RENEWS OFFER TO RELEASE PRISONERS

METULLA, ISRAEL (AP) - THE COMMANDER OF THE ISRAELI-BACKED MILITIA IN SOUTH LEBANON RENEWED AN OFFER MONDAY FOR A PRISONER SWAP, A STEP CONSIDERED KEY TO GAINING FREEDOM FOR WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON.

GEN. ANTOINE LAHAD TOLD REPORTERS IN THIS TOWN ON THE LEBANESE BORDER THAT HE WAS WILLING TO TRADE LEBANESE AND PALESTINIANS HELD BY HIS SOUTH LEBANON ARMY MILITIA FOR ISRAELI SOLDIERS AND SLA FIGHTERS WHO ARE CAPTIVES IN LEBANON.

WHILE RELEASE OF PALESTINIANS AND MEMBERS OF THE SHIITE MUSLIM HEZBOLLAH FACTION HAVE BEEN DEMANDED AS A CONDITION FOR FREEING THE 13 WESTERNERS MISSING IN LEBANON, LAHAD SAID THE HOSTAGES WERE NOT HIS CONCERN.

HE SAID ''THIS IS A PROBLEM WHICH CONCERNS SYRIA AND IRAN - IRAN THROUGH THE PRESSURE IT HAS ON HEZBOLLAH, SYRIA BECAUSE IT CONTROLS THE LEBANESE LAND AND SHOULD KNOW WHERE THESE HOSTAGES ARE.''

LAHAD'S MILITIA, WHICH IS TRAINED AND FINANCED BY ISRAEL, CONTROLS A 1,100-SQUARE-KILOMETER (440-SQUARE-MILE) STRIP NORTH OF THE LEBANON-ISRAEL BOUNDARY LINE THAT WAS SET UP IN 1985 TO PROTECT NORTHERN ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS FROM GUERRILLA ATTACK.

THE SLA IS BELIEVED TO HOLD 300-400 PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE GUERRILLAS IN THE KHIAM PRISON IN SOUTH LEBANON. LAHAD DID NOT SAY HOW MANY OF HIS OWN MILITIAMEN WERE CAPTIVES, BUT SEVEN ISRAELI SOLDIERS ARE MISSING IN LEBANON.

''IF THERE ARE CONTACTS OR AN ARRANGEMENT FOR EXCHANGE OF DETAINEES IN KHIAM AGAINST THE RELEASE OF THE ISRAELI DETAINEES WITH HEZBOLLAH OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND SLA DETAINEES WITH HEZBOLLAH OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, THIS CAN BE CONTEMPLATED AND DONE,'' LAHAD SAID.

''OTHERWISE THE QUESTION OF PRISONERS OF KHIAM CANNOT BE DEALT WITH,'' HE ADDED.

LEBANESE SHIITE LEADERS HAVE REPEATEDLY CALLED FOR LAHAD TO RELEASE HIS PRISONERS AS A STEP TOWARD FREEING THE WESTERN HOSTAGES. THEY ALSO DEMANDED FREEDOM FOR SHEIK ABDUL KARIM OBEID, A LEBANESE SHIITE CLERIC KIDNAPPED BY ISRAEL IN 1989.

THE HOSTAGES INCLUDE SIX AMERICANS, FOUR BRITONS, TWO GERMANS AND AN ITALIAN. THE LONGEST HELD IS TERRY A. ANDERSON, CHIEF MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, WHO WAS KIDNAPPED ON MARCH 16, 1985.

LAHAD WAS ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD RELEASE ALL PRISONERS IN KHIAM, AND REPLIED THAT HE HAD NEVER OFFERED TO FREE ALL THE DETAINEES. ''BUT,'' HE ADDED, ''IT IS PERMISSIBLE TO HAVE THE CONTACTS AND WE WILL SEE WHAT NUMBER.''

#(ME-GGL)

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#LEBANON-ISRAEL

#AMAL OFFERS SWAP BODIES OF 2 ISRAELIS FOR ARAB PRISONERS

ASAILEH, LEBANON (AP) - SHIITE MOSLEM CHIEFTAIN NABIH BERRI FRIDAY OFFERED TO EXCHANGE THE BODIES OF TWO ISRAELI SOLDIERS FOR THE MORE THAN 300 ARABS HELD BY AN ISRAELI-BACKED MILITIA IN SOUTH LEBANON.

''WE'VE TOLD THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS THAT WE HAVE THE BODIES OF TWO ISRAELI SOLDIERS AND WE'RE WILLING TO EXCHANGE THEM FOR ALL THE DETAINEES AT KHIAM PRISON,'' BERRI TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE AT HIS VACATION HOME IN THIS SOUTHERN RESORT.

ISRAEL'S PROXY FORCE, THE MAINLY CHRISTIAN SOUTH LEBANON ARMY, HOLDS SOME 350 DETAINEES AT THE PRISON INSIDE ISRAEL'S SELF-PROCLAIMED ''SECURITY ZONE'' IN SOUTH LEBANON.

''ISRAEL WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT THE BODIES WERE THOSE OF ISRAELI SOLDIERS. BUT WE TOLD THE ICRC 'NO.' FIRST ISRAEL HAS TO ACCEPT IN PUBLIC THE PRINCIPLE OF A SWAP; THEN WE'LL ALLOW AN EXAMINATION OF THE BODIES,'' BERRI SAID.

AN ISRAELI DEFENSE OFFICIAL SAID MAY 17 THAT THE JEWISH STATE WANTED PROOF THAT THE SYRIAN-BACKED AMAL HAS THE BODIES OF TWO ISRAELI SOLDIERS.

THE OFFICIAL, WHO INSISTED ON ANONYMITY, SAID ISRAEL HAD NO INFORMATION THAT AMAL WAS ACTUALLY HOLDING THE BODIES.

''IF AMAL BELIEVES THAT THE BODIES ARE THOSE OF ISRAELI SOLDIERS, LET IT FIRST SUBMIT EVIDENCE TO THIS EFFECT,'' HE TOLD THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

''ONLY AFTER WE'RE CONVINCED THE BODIES ARE IN FACT THOSE OF ISRAELI SOLDIERS WILL THERE BE ROOM TO NEGOTIATE THE MATTER,'' HE STRESSED.

BERRI DID NOT NAME THE ISRAELIS. BUT HE WAS UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO TWO SOLDIERS, YOSSI FINK AND RAHAMIM ALSHEIKH, CAPTURED BY GUERRILLAS IN SOUTH LEBANON IN FEBRUARY 1986.

PRO-IRANIAN SHIITE MILITIAMEN AFFILIATED WITH THE FUNDAMENTALIST HEZBOLLAH, OR PARTY OF GOD, ARE BELIEVED TO BE HOLDING THE PAIR.

IT WAS NOT CLEAR HOW ANY EXCHANGE THAT MIGHT BE NEGOTIATED WOULD AFFECT THE FATE OF 16 WESTERNERS MISSING IN LEBANON, MOST OF THEM BELIEVED HELD BY IRANIAN-BACKED SHIITES EXTREMISTS.

THE MILITANTS, AND IRANIAN OFFICIALS, HAVE SAID SOME OF THE WESTERNERS COULD BE FREED IF THE KHIAM PRISONERS ARE RELEASED. ISRAELI OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE WESTERN HOSTAGES INCLUDED IN ANY EXCHANGE.

BERRI MADE NO APPARENT REFERENCE TO OTHER ISRAELIS MISSING IN LEBANON.

ISRAELI AIR FORCE NAVIGATOR RON ARAD, WHOSE PHANTOM JET WAS SHOT DOWN NEAR SIDON IN 1986, WAS ORIGINALLY CAPTURED BY AMAL. BUT THE MILITIA'S THEN SECURITY CHIEF, MUSTAFA DIRANI, DEFECTED TO HEZBOLLAH AND TOOK THE PRISONER WITH HIM.

THREE OTHER ISRAELI SOLDIERS, U.S.-BORN SGT. ZACHARY BAUMEL, SGT. ZVI FELDMAN AND CORPORAL YEHUDA KATZ, HAVE BEEN MISSSING IN LEBANON SINCE JUNE 11, 1982. THEY WERE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY RADICAL PALESTINIANS.

ANOTHER ISRAELI TROOPER, SAMIR ASSAD, HELD BY THE MARXIST DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE SINCE THE 1982 ISRAELI INVASION OF LEBANON, IS BELIEVED TO BE DEAD.

THE FRONT SAID ASSAD WAS KILLED IN AN ISRAELI AIR RAID ON AN ISLAND OFF THE NORTH LEBANON COAST IN 1984.

#END

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Swapping

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ISRAEL-HOSTAGES

RABIN DEMANDS 'SIGNS OF LIFE' BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS

BY ALLYN FISHER=
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

JERUSALEM (AP) - DEFENSE MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN SAYS ISRAEL WILL REFUSE TO START NEGOTIATIONS FOR A HOSTAGE OR PRISONER SWAP UNTIL IT FIRST RECEIVES ''SIGNS OF LIFE'' ABOUT THREE ISRAELI SOLDIERS HELD CAPTIVE IN LEBANON.

''AS LONG AS WE DON'T KNOW WHO IS ALIVE AND WHO ISN'T, WE WILL DISCUSS NO OTHER DETAILS,'' RABIN SAID TUESDAY NIGHT AT A MEETING OF HIS LABOR PARTY'S DECISION-MAKING CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

EARLIER TUESDAY, RABIN TOLD REPORTERS AFTER MEETING U.N. ENVOY MARRACK GOULDING THAT CONFIRMING THE ISRAELIS WERE ALIVE MUST BE A FIRST STAGE IN CONTACTS WITH SHIITE RADICALS BELIEVED TO HOLD THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS AND MOST OF THE 16 FOREIGN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON.

AS A SECOND STEP, RABIN ADDED, ISRAEL WOULD PROVIDE THE SHIITES WITH INFORMATION ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF AN ESTIMATED 300 OF THEIR FOLLOWERS IMPRISONED BY ISRAEL.

''ONLY THEN WILL WE NEGOTIATE THE TERMS FOR THE EXCHANGE,'' HE SAID.

RABIN ALSO SAID ISRAEL CONSIDERS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS TO BE ''THE MOST SUITABLE'' CHANNEL FOR NEGOTIATING A SWAP WITH THE PRO-IRANIAN HEZBOLLAH MOVEMENT, AN UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION FOR SHIITE FUNDAMENTALIST GROUPS IN LEBANON.

HE INDICATED THERE HAD BEEN LITTLE PROGRESS MADE SO FAR IN RESOLVING THE HOSTAGE CRISIS, BY SAYING, ''UNFORTUNATELY UNTIL THIS MOMENT NO LEBANESE ORGANIZATION TURNED TO THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS WITH ANY PROPOSAL.''

''WHOEVER WANTS REAL BUSINESS, IT'S BETTER TO TURN TO THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS WITH WHATEVER TERMS HE HAS IN MIND,'' RABIN ADDED.

GOULDING, WHO RETURNED TO NEW YORK AFTER SHUTTLING BETWEEN BEIRUT AND TEL AVIV ON THE HOSTAGE SITUATION, SAID HIS MEETING WITH RABIN FOCUSED ON U.N. DEMANDS THAT ISRAEL RELEASE A MOSLEM CLERIC KIDNAPPED BY ISRAELI COMMANDOS FROM SOUTH LEBANON ON JULY 28.

RABIN REJECTED THE DEMAND SAYING 33-YEAR-OLD SHEIKH ABDUL KARIM OBEID WOULD BE FREED ONLY AS PART OF A SWAP FOR ISRAELI AND FOREIGN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON.

THE ISRAELI LEADER ALSO DIFFERED WITH GOULDING'S ASSERTION THAT OBEID'S CAPTURE ''DOES NOT HELP'' EFFORTS TO FREE HOSTAGES. ''I BELIEVE THE FACT IT WAS DONE PROVIDES A BIGGER CHANCE TO RETURN THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS MISSING AND THE CAPTIVES HOME,'' RABIN SAID.

THE THREE ISRAELI SOLDIERS BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY HEZBOLLAH ARE RAHAMIM ALSHEIKH AND YOSEF FINK, WHO WERE CAPTURED IN SOUTH LEBANON IN FEBRUARY 1986, AND AN AIR NAVIGATOR, RON ARAD, SHOT DOWN WHILE ON A BOMBING MISSION NEAR SIDON IN OCTOBER 1986.

ON WEDNESDAY, SHLOMO ALSHEIKH, THE FATHER OF ONE OF THE ISRAELI PRISONERS HELD BY THE SHIITES, WAS QUOTED BY THE YEDIOT AHRONOT DAILY AS SAYING HE LEARNED 10 DAYS AGO ''FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT HE (HIS SON, RAHAMIM) IS ALIVE.''

''THAT'S WHAT WE WERE TOLD. WE WERE TOLD THAT THERE IS INFORMATION OUR SON IS ALIVE AND WELL, THANK GOD,'' ALSHEIKH SAID.

ALSHEIKH DID NOT MAKE CLEAR WHERE HE RECEIVED THE INFORATION, AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS REFUSED TO DISCUSS THE REPORT.

END (AF-GDL)

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S. Swapping

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*ISRAEL-HOSTAGES, 1ST LD,0425
*EDS: UPDATES WITH ADDITIONAL LAHAD QUOTES
*BY KARIN LAUB=
*ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

JERUSALEM (AP) - THE COMMANDER OF AN ISRAELI-BACKED MILITIA IN SOUTHERN LEBANON SAID MONDAY HE WOULD NOT RELEASE ANY OF HIS 300 SHIITE PRISONERS FOR WESTERN HOSTAGES UNLESS NEGOTIATIONSS INCLUDED CAPTIVE MILITIAMEN AND ISRAELI SOLDIERS.

THE REMARKS BY GEN. ANTOINE LAHAD OF THE SOUTH LEBANON ARMY CAME AT A TIME OF GROWING U.S. PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO FREE ARAB DETAINEES TO HELP WIN THE FREEDOM OF 16 WESTERN HOSTAGES HELD BY PRO-IRANIAN SHIITE MOSLEM GROUPS IN LEBANON.

LAHAD'S REMARKS APPEARED TO REFLECT A HARD-LINE BY ISRAEL TOWARD ANY DEAL THAT EXCLUDED ITS OWN CAPTIVES.

''I WANT TO MAKE CLEAR ... THAT I CANNOT RELEASE ANYBODY ... JUST BECAUSE OF THE FOREIGNERS,'' LAHAD SAID IN AN INTERVIEW AIRED ON MIDDLE EAST TELEVISION.

''THERE IS NO WAY I CAN RELEASE (MY PRISONERS) UNLESS THERE ARE NEGOTIATIONS TO RELEASE SLA AND ISRAELI CAPTIVES,'' HE SAID.

THE GENERAL HOLDS MORE THAN 300 ARAB DETAINEES, MOST OF THEM SHIITE MOSLEMS, AT THE AL-KHIAM LOCKUP THREE KILOMETERS (TWO MILES) SOUTHEAST OF LAHAD'S HEADQUARTERS IN MARJAYOUN.

SHIITE EXTREMIST GROUPS HAVE DEMANDED THE RELEASE OF DETAINEES HELD BY LAHAD AND ISRAEL BEFORE THEY WILL RELEASE ANY MORE HOSTAGES. AN IRANIAN NEWSPAPER SUGGESTED LAST WEEK THAT GOODWILL GESTURES BY ISRAEL WOULD ENCOURAGE THE RELEASE OF ADDITIONAL WESTERN HOSTAGES. TWO AMERICANS WERE FREED LAST MONTH.

LAHAD ALSO TOLD THE TELEVISION THAT HE HAS TEMPORARILY STOPPED FREEING PRISONERS FROM AL-KHIAM FOR MOSLEM HOLIDAYS TO QUELL RUMORS THAT SUCH MOVES WERE PART OF A PACKAGE DEAL TO RELEASE WESTERN HOSTAGES.

WHEN THE PUBLICITY DIES DOWN, LAHAD WILL RESUME THE CUSTOMARY PRISONER RELEASE ON MOSLEM HOLIDAYS, THE TELEVISION QUOTED HIM AS SAYING.

SOURCES CLOSE TO LAHAD'S 2,500-MEMBER SOUTH LEBANON ARMY, WHICH GETS TRAINING AND SUPPLIES FROM ISRAEL, SAID EIGHT OF THE MILITIA'S FIGHTERS ARE HELD BY SHIITE GROUPS.

ISRAEL, MEANWHILE, REITERATED THAT IT IS NOT OPPOSED TO A SWAP IN PRINCIPLE, BUT THAT SUCH AN EXCHANGE SHOULD INCLUDE THREE ISRAELI SERVICEMEN CAPTURED IN LEBANON IN 1986 AND BELIEVED HELD BY RADICAL SHIITES LINKED TO THE PRO-IRANIAN HEZBOLLAH MILITIA.

''IT IS OUR STATED POLICY THAT WE ARE READY TO CONTEMPLATE AN EXCHANGE FOR THE ISRAELI PRISONERS WHO ARE HELD BY THOSE ORGANIZATIONS,'' SAID AVI PAZNER, A SPOKESMAN FOR ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK SHAMIR.

BUT HE DENIED THERE WAS ANY DIRECT U.S. PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO MAKE PRISONER RELEASES EXCLUSIVELY ON BEHALF OF WESTERN HOSTAGES.

*SHIITE MOSLEM, 10TH GRAF
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@ISRAEL-HOSTAGES
@LAHAD TAKES HARDLINE ON RELEASE OF SHIITES FOR HOSTAGES
@BY KARIN LAUB=
@ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

JERUSALEM (AP) - ANTOINE LAHAD, LEADER OF AN ISRAELI-BACKED MILITIA IN SOUTH LEBANON, SAID MONDAY HE WOULD NOT RELEASE ANY OF HIS ABOUT 300 SHIITE PRISONERS FOR WESTERN HOSTAGES UNLESS CAPTIVE MILITIAMEN AND ISRAELI SOLDIERS WERE ALSO FREED.

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE VOICE OF SOUTH LEBANON RADIO STATION, LAHAD SAID ''NO PRISONERS WILL BE RELEASED UNLESS ISRAELI AND SOUTH LEBANON ARMY HOSTAGES ARE RELEASED FIRST.''

LAHAD'S REMARKS, HIS FIRST SINCE THE U.S. HOSTAGES WERE FREED, CAME AT A TIME OF GROWING U.S. PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO FREE ARAB DETAINEES TO HELP WIN THE FREEDOM OF 16 WESTERN HOSTAGES, INCLUDING SIX AMERICANS STILL HELD IN LEBANON.

HOWEVER, LAHAD'S REMARKS APPEARED TO REFLECT A HARDLINE BY ISRAEL TOWARDS ANY DEAL THAT EXCLUDED THEIR OWN CAPTIVES.

''IT IS OUR STATED POLICY THAT WE ARE READY TO CONTEMPLATE AN EXCHANGE FOR THE ISRAELI PRISONERS WHO ARE HELD BY THOSE ORGANIZATIONS,'' SAID AVI PAZNER, A SPOKESMAN FOR ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK SHAMIR.

BUT HE DENIED THERE WAS ANY DIRECT U.S. PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO MAKE PRISONER RELEASES EXCLUSIVELY ON BEHALF OF WESTERN HOSTAGES.

ISRAEL HAS CONSISTENTLY SAID IT IS NOT OPPOSED TO A SWAP IN PRINCIPLE, BUT THAT SUCH AN EXCHANGE SHOULD INCLUDE THREE ISRAELI SERVICEMEN CAPTURED IN LEBANON IN 1986 AND BELIEVED HELD BY RADICAL SHIITES LINKED TO THE PRO-IRANIAN HEZBOLLAH MILITIA.

SOURCES CLOSE TO LAHAD'S 2,500-MEMBER SOUTH LEBANON ARMY, WHICH GETS TRAINING AND SUPPLIES FROM ISRAEL, SAID EIGHT OF HIS FIGHTERS ARE HELD BY SHIITE GROUPS.

LAHAD HOLDS MORE THAN 300 ARAB DETAINEES, MOST OF THEM SHIITES, AT THE AL-KHIAM LOCKUP THREE KILOMETERS (TWO MILES) SOUTHEAST OF LAHAD'S HEADQUARTERS IN MARJAYOUN.

THE SHIITE CAPTORS RELEASED TWO AMERICAN PROFESSORS IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS; ROBERT POLHILL ON APRIL 22 AND FRANK REED ON APRIL 30. AN IRANIAN NEWSPAPER SUGGESTED GOODWILL GESTURES ON THE PART OF ISRAEL WOULD ENCOURAGE MORE RELEASES.

TWO SENIOR U.S. SENATORS ON SUNDAY CALLED FOR THE RELEASE OF THE REMAINING WESTERN HOSTAGES.

SENATE MINORITY LEADER ROBERT DOLE, R-KAN., URGED FOREIGN LEADERS TO PRESS FOR THE HOSTAGES' RELEASE, AND DEMOCRATIC SEN. DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN OF NEW YORK URGED ISRAEL TO RELEASE THE MOSLEM PRISONERS IT HOLDS.

''IT IS IN (ISRAEL'S) INTEREST TO DO AND IF THEY'RE PART OF THE WORLD NATIONS SEEKING LEGALITY AND DECENCY, THEY SHOULD NOW ACT TO BRING IT ABOUT IN LEBANON,'' MOYNIHAN SAID.

ISRAEL'S MOST PROMINENT PRISONER IS SHEIKH ABDUL-KARIM OBEID, A SHIITE MOSLEM CLERIC BELONGING TO HEZBOLLAH. OBEID AND TWO ASSISTANTS WERE CAPTURED BY ISRAEL ON JULY 28.

ISRAEL ALSO HOLDS 9,986 PALESTINIANS DETAINED DURING THE 29-MONTH UPRISING AGAINST ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP.

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#ISRAEL-HOSTAGES, 1ST LD

#EDS: UPDATES WITH SHAMIR SAYING NO DEAL WITHOUT RELEASE OF ISRAELIS

#BY ARIEH O'SULLIVAN=

#ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

JERUSALEM (AP) - PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK SHAMIR, SPEAKING FOR THE FIRST TIME ABOUT A PRISONER SWAP, SAID WEDNESDAY ISRAEL WOULD NOT RELEASE ANY ARAB DETAINEES FOR WESTERN HOSTAGES UNLESS ISRAELI SOLDIERS HELD IN LEBANON WERE ALSO FREED.

ASKED ABOUT GROWING U.S. PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO FREE DETAINEES, SHAMIR SAID: ''I DON'T THINK THAT ANYBODY WILL ASK ISRAEL TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH AN ENDEAVOR WITHOUT HAVING A POSSIBILITY TO RELEASE OUR OWN PRISONERS AND MISSING SOLDIERS.''

THREE ISRAELI SOLDIERS WERE CAPTURED IN LEBANON IN 1986 AND ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY HEZBOLLAH, A PRO-IRANIAN SHIITE MOSLEM MILITIA.

SIXTEEN WESTERNERS, INCLUDING SIX AMERICANS, ARE ALSO HELD IN LEBANON.

WHEN ASKED WHETHER ANY PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE CONCERNING THE RELEASE OF ISRAELI CAPTIVES, SHAMIR SAID: ''UNFORTUNATELY, NOT YET.''

HE SPOKE TO REPORTERS DURING A TOUR OF A HIGH-TECH FACTORY IN JERUSALEM.

ISRAEL'S CHIEF OF STAFF, LT. GEN. DAN SHOMRON, SAID NO CONTACTS WERE UNDER WAY CONCERNING A THREE-WAY SWAP INVOLVING ISRAEL, THE UNITED STATES AND THE CAPTORS IN LEBANON.

SHOMRON SAID IN AN INTERVIEW BROADCAST WEDNESDAY ON ISRAEL RADIO THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO REQUESTS FOR PRISONER RELEASES AND NO PRACTICAL PROPOSALS FOR A PRISONER SWAP.

#HE ALSO, 3RD GRAF ISRAEL-HOSTAGES

#END (NT-KL)

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$ISRAEL-HOSTAGES

$CHIEF OF STAFF: NO DEAL IN WORKS FOR PRISONER-HOSTAGE SWAP

$BY ARIEH O'SULLIVAN=

$ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

JERUSALEM (AP) - ISRAEL'S CHIEF OF STAFF SAID WEDNESDAY NO CONTRACTS WERE UNDERWAY CONCERNING A SWAP OF ISRAEL-HELD SHIITE PRISONERS IN RETURN FOR ISRAELIS AND WESTERNERS HELD IN LEBANON.

LT. GEN. DAN SHOMRON SAID IN AN INTERVIEW BROADCAST ON ISRAEL RADIO THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO REQUESTS FOR PRISONER RELEASES AND NO PRACTICAL PROPOSALS FOR A PRISONER SWAP.

HE ALSO SAID ANY DEAL THAT DOES MATERIALIZE WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE THE RETURN OF THREE ISRAELI SOLDIERS CAPTURED BY PRO-IRANIAN SHIITE MOSLEM MILITIAMEN IN LEBANON.

''WHEN THERE IS A READINESS ON THE OTHER SIDE TO RETURN (ISRAELI) PRISONERS, WE ARE PREPARED FOR AN EXCHANGE. (THIS POLICY) HAS NOT CHANGED,'' SHOMRON SAID.

''TODAY, THERE IS NOTHING CONCRETE WHERE SOMEONE IS TALKING TO US ABOUT EXCHANGES.''

INTERVIEWED TUESDAY NIGHT AT A REUNION OF HOSTAGES AND SOLDIERS FROM THE 1975 ENTEBBE RESCUE MISSION, SHOMRON ALSO NOTED THAT ISRAEL HAD A MILITARY OPTION TO RESCUE HOSTAGES.

''IN MY OPINION, THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES CAN DO IT AGAIN EVEN TODAY. THE IDF HAS UNITS TODAY THAT CAN DO IT, MAYBE EVEN BETTER, BECAUSE THEY HAVE BETTER TOOLS AND IF THE IDF NEEDS TO, IT WILL BE ABLE TO STAND UP (TO THE CHALLENGE.)''

MORE THAN 100 PASSENGERS ABOARD AN AIR FRANCE PLANE HIJACKED BY PALESTINIANS WERE SAVED BY A DARING ISRAELI COMMANDO OPERATION.

U.S. PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH INDIRECTLY APPEALED TO ISRAEL AND TWO PROMINENT U.S. SENATORS MADE A DIRECT ONE, URGING ISRAEL TO FREE SHIITES AS A GOOD WILL GESTURE TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER RELEASES OF WESTERN HOSTAGES, INCLUDING SIX AMERICANS.

ABOUT 30 LEBANESE PRISONERS, INCLUDING SHIITE CLERGYMAN ABDUL KARIM OBEID, ARE HELD IN ISRAEL WHILE THE LEBANESE MILITIA ISRAEL TRAINS AND SUPPLIES HAS MORE THAN 300 MOST SHIITE PRISONERS IN A SOUTH LEBANON JAIL.

IN ADDITION TO THE SHIITES, ISRAEL HOLDS 9,906 PALESTINIANS DETAINED DURING THE PALESTINIAN UPRISING AGAINST ISRAEL'S OCCUPATION IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP.

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, WHOSE BROTHER YONATHAN WAS KILLED WHILE LEADING THE ENTEBBE RAID, RESTATED ISRAEL'S POSITION THAT THAT NO DEAL WAS POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE THREE ISRAELIS CAPTURED IN 1986.

''LIKE ANY COUNTRY, WE WANT TO BRING OUR BOYS BACK HOME,'' HE SAID.

''WE ARE PREPARED TO EXCHANGE (SHIITES) FOR OUR CAPTIVES, AS HAS BEEN ACCEPTABLE IN THE PAST. IF DURING THE EXCHANGE OF OUR PRISONERS THEY WILL ALSO RELEASE WESTERN HOSTAGES, WE WILL OF COURSE BE HAPPY AND PRAISE IT,'' NETANYAHU SAID.

HE SAID THE SHIITES HELD BY ISRAEL WERE NOT HOSTAGES. ''THEY ARE PEOPLE WHO TRIED TO PENETRATE THE ISRAELI BORDER IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT ATTACKS AGAINST OUR CITIZENS,'' HE SAID.

FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN, ALSO INTERVIEWED AT THE REUNION TUESDAY NIGHT, SAID ISRAEL WAS PREPARED TO USE ALL ITS ''BARGAINING CHIPS'' TO WIN THE RELEASE OF ITS CAPTIVES.

$MORE

0758D 09 05 90

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RR0145
0 I TLR240 TLM 01 PSM ADM FKG 888
#ISRAEL-HOSTAGES, 1ST ADD
#JERUSALEM: ITS CAPTIVES.

RABIN TOLD REPORTERS THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG WITH MAKING DEALS TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF HOSTAGES.

HE SAID ISRAEL'S ABDUCTION OF OBEID FROM SOUTH LEBANON LAST JULY WAS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE ISRAEL WITH A ''BARGAINING CHIP'' FOR A HOSTAGE SWAP.

''MY POLICY HAS BEEN THAT WHEN YOU HAVE A HOSTAGE SITUATION, SOLDIERS OR CIVILIANS, IF THERE'S A MILITARY OPTION, YOU USE IT. IF NOT, THEN ENTER AN EXCHANGE DEAL. FOR THAT YOU HAVE TO HAVE THE CARDS,'' RABIN SAID.

''THE DECISION TO ATTAIN BETTER BARGAINING CHIPS BROUGHT US TO BRING SHEIKH OBEID HERE FOR THE SAKE OF DEALING WITH HEZBOLLAH,'' HE SAID.

END (AD-NT)

0800G 09 05 90

##

South

Swapping

RR0240

U I NCB028 01 MAY 888

LEBANON-HOSTAGES

#MUSAWI RULES OUT NEGOTIATING WITH ISRAEL FOR SWAP OF HOSTAGES

BEIRUT, LEBANON (AP) - THE REPUTED MENTOR OF SHIITE MOSLEM KIDNAPPERS THURSDAY RULED OUT NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL FOR A SWAP OF ARAB DETAINEES FOR WESTERN HOSTAGES AND THREE ISRAELI SERVICEMEN HELD IN LEBANON.

''THE BELIEVERS HAVE EVERY MORAL, RELIGIOUS AND HUMANITARIAN OBJECTION AGAINST NEGOTIATING WITH ISRAEL,'' HUSSEIN MUSAWI TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE AT HIS HEADQUARTERS IN EAST LEBANON'S ANCIENT CITY OF BAALBEK.

EXCERPTS OF THE NEWS CONFERENCE WERE BROADCAST BY THE COMMUNIST-RUN VOICE OF THE PEOPLE RADIO STATION.

MUSAWI HEADS ISLAMIC AMAL, A PRO-SYRIAN WING IN THE IRANIAN-BACKED HEZBOLLAH, OR PARTY OF GOD. HEZBOLLAH, WHICH IS BACKED BY IRAN IS BELIEVED TO BE THE UMBRELLA FOR SHIITE EXTREMISTS HOLDING MOST OF THE 16 WESTERNERS, INCLUDING SIX AMERICANS, MISSING IN LEBANON.

MUSAWI IS BELIEVED TO WIELD INFLUENCE ON ISLAMIC JIHAD FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE, THE GROUP THAT RELEASED AMERICAN HOSTAGE ROBERT POLHIL, 55, ON APRIL 22, AFTER 39 MONTHS IN CAPTIVITY.

ANOTHER GROUP CALLING ITSELF THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC DAWN RELEASED ANOTHER AMERICAN, FRANK REED, 57, ON APRIL 30.

IRAN AND THE HOSTAGE-HOLDERS HAVE DEMANDED A GOODWILL GESTURE FROM THE UNITED STATES AFTER THE RELEASE OF POLHILL AND REED.

THEY DEMANDED THAT WASHINGTON PRESSURE ISRAEL TO RELEASE SOME 300 LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN DETAINEES, AND THAT THE UNITED STATES AND ITS WESTERN ALLIES PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE FATE OF FOUR IRANIANS WHO WENT MISSING IN LEBANON IN 1982.

THE IRANIANS WERE KIDNAPPED IN THE CHRISTIAN HEARTLAND NORTH OF BEIRUT BY RIGHT-WING MILITIAMEN. MILITIA OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THEY BELIEVE THE IRANIANS ARE DEAD, BUT TEHRAN SAYS IT HAS INFORMATION THEY ARE STILL ALIVE.

ISRAEL HAS SAID IT IS WILLING TO NEGOTIATE A SWAP PROVIDED IT INCLUDES AN AIRMAN AND TWO SOLDIERS CAPTURED BY SHIITE GROUPS IN SOUTH LEBANON IN 1986.

THE WESTERN HOSTAGES COMPRISE IN ADDITION TO THE AMERICANS, FOUR BRITONS, TWO GERMANS, TWO SWISS, AN ITALIAN AND AN IRISHMAN.

''OUR WAR WITH THE ENEMIES OF GOD IS OPEN-ENDED,'' MUSAWI SAID.

''THE WHOLE WORLD WAS WAITING FOR THE RELEASE OF ONE HOSTAGE. BUT NOW IT IS PREOCUPIED WITH THE LIFE OR DEATH OF ANOTHER HOSTAGE,'' MUSAWI SAID WITHOUT EXPLAING.

''THE WHOLE ISLAMIC WORLD IS A HOSTAGE HELD BY AMERICA AND GLOBAL ARROGANCE,'' HE SAID.

#END

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Salt

AA0163

U I ACB022 01 NAT 888

LEBANON-HOSTAGES

#LAHD WANTS TO SWAP MOSLEM DETAINEES FOR WESTERN HOSTAGES

#BY MOHAMMED SALAM=

#ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER=

MARJAYOUN, LEBANON (AP) - THE COMMANDER OF ISRAEL'S PROXY FORCE IN SOUTH LEBANON SAID SUNDAY HE IS READY TO SWAP DETAINEES HIS MILITIA HOLDS FOR 16 WESTERN HOSTAGES, THREE ISRAELI SERVICEMEN AND SEVERAL OF HIS MEN HELD BY SHIITE MOSLEM FACTIONS.

''I'M NOT ONLY PREPARED TO FACILITATE SUCH A PACKAGE DEAL, BUT I ALSO HOPE IT COULD HAPPEN,'' SAID GEN. ANTOINE LAHD, COMMANDER OF THE ISRAELI-BACKED SOUTH LEBANON ARMY.

''A COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE DEAL IS POSSIBLE, INVOLVING AMERICAN AND WESTERN HOSTAGES, OUR (SLA) MEN HELD BY DIFFERENT GROUPS AND ISRAELI SERVICEMEN CAPTURED IN LEBANON,'' LAHD, 61, SAID IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

LAHD, A RETIRED LEBANESE ARMY OFFICER, COMMANDS A 3,000-STRONG MILITIA. BACKED BY SOME 1,000 ISRAELI TROOPS, THE SLA PATROLS A BORDER ENCLAVE IN SOUTH LEBANON.

THE SLA HOLDS SOME 300 SHIITE DETAINEES IN KHIAM, A SMALL VILLAGE IN ISRAEL'S SELF-PROCLAIMED SECURITY ZONE, WHICH IS 6 TO 10 MILES (10 TO 16 KILOMETERS) DEEP.

THE SECURITY ZONE, STRETCHING FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN TO THE FOOTHILLS OF MOUNT HERMON, WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1985 WHEN ISRAEL WITHDREW THE BULK OF ITS FORCES FROM SOUTH LEBANON, ENDING A THREE-YEAR INVASION.

MOST OF THE 16 WESTERN HOSTAGES MISSING IN LEBANON ARE HELD BY PRO-IRANIAN SHIITE FACTIONS OPERATING UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE FUNDAMENTALIST HEZBOLLAH, OR PARTY OF GOD.

TWO AMERICAN HOSTAGES, ROBERT POLHILL AND FRANK REED, WERE RELEASED BY THEIR PRO-IRANIAN CAPTORS LAST MONTH.

IRANIAN OFFICIALS AND LEBANESE CLERGYMEN SAID THE RELEASE OF DETAINEES HELD BY THE SLA AND ISRAEL WOULD HELP END THE ORDEAL OF THE HOSTAGES, WHO INCLUDE SIX OTHER AMERICANS.

THEY MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY THE RELEASE OF SHEIK ABDUL-KARIM OBEID, A HEZBOLLAH OFFICIAL CAPTURED BY THE ISRAELIS IN A RAID ON HIS VILLAGE IN SOUTH LEBANON JULY 28, 1989.

ASKED IF A SWAP WOULD INCLUDE SHEIK OBEID, WHO IS HELD IN ISRAEL, LAHD SAID: ''I CANNOT SPECIFY OBEID OR OTHERS. BUT JUDGING FROM MY DEALINGS WITH ISRAEL, I KNOW THAT IF THEIR PEOPLE WERE RELEASED THEY WILL RELEASE (DETAINEES).''

''IF THEY RELEASE OUR PEOPLE AND THE ISRAELI SERVICEMEN, I'LL BE ABLE TO RELEASE A LARGE NUMBER FROM KHIAM AND FROM ISRAEL,'' HE SAID AT HIS SINGLE-STORY STONE HOUSE IN THE SLA COMPOUND IN MARJAOUN.

BUT HE STRESSED: ''I WON'T RELEASE ANYBODY IF OUR PEOPLE AND THE ISRAELI SERVICEMEN ARE NOT FREED.''

TWO ISRAELI SOLDIERS, RAHAMIM ALSHEIKH AND YOSSI FINK, WERE CAPTURED IN A GUERRILLA AMBUSH IN THE SECURITY ZONE FEB. 17, 1986. THEY ARE BELIEVED HELD BY HEZBOLLAH. AN ISRAELI AIRMAN, RON ARAD, WAS CAPTURED WHEN HIS PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN IN SOUTH LEBANON ON OCT. 16, 1986.

LAHD SAID NINE SLA MEN HAVE GONE MISSING IN CLASHES WITH MOSLEM FACTIONS IN SOUTH LEBANON.

#MORE

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U I NCB024 01 NAT 888
LEBANON-HOSTAGES, 1ST ADD
#MARJAYOUN, SOUTH LEBANON.

HE SAID THREE ARE HELD BY HEZBOLLAH AND ONE BY THE MAINSTREAM SHIITE AMAL MILITIA, WHICH IS BACKED BY SYRIA.

''WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE FATE OF THE OTHERS. IF THEY ARE ALIVE, LET THEM RELEASE THEM. IF THEY ARE DEAD, (LET THEM) GIVE US THE BODIES,'' LAHD SAID.

IN ADDITION TO THE SIX AMERICANS, THE WESTERN HOSTAGES ARE FOUR BRITONS, TWO WEST GERMANS, TWO SWISS, AN ITALIAN AND AN IRISHMAN.

THE LONGEST-HELD HOSTAGE IS AMERICAN JOURNALIST TERRY ANDERSON, 42. HE WAS KIDNAPPED ON MARCH 16, 1985.

LAHD WAS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED ON NOV. 7, 1988, WHEN A VISITOR AT HIS HOUSE IN MARJAYOUN DREW A PISTOL AND FIRED SEVERAL SHOTS AT HIM AT CLOSE RANGE.

THE ASSAILANT, SUHA BISHARA, A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, WAS IMMEDIATELY ARRESTED.

LAHD UNDERWENT TREATMENT IN ISRAEL FOR THREE MONTHS.

''MY RIGHT ARM IS STILL VERY WEAK AND TREMBLING,'' HE SAID.

ASKED IF HE WOULD CONSIDER RELEASING MISS BISHARA SHOULD AN EXCHANGE DEAL BE WORKED OUT, LAHD REPLIED: ''THERE WOULD BE NEGOTIATIONS FOR HER RELEASE. WE'LL DISCUSS IT.''

LAHD RETIRED FROM THE LEBANESE ARMY IN 1980. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS TWO CHILDREN, RABI, 11, AND ROMY, 5.

#END
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LEBANON-HOSTAGES, 2ND ADD

$MARJAYOUN: AND RONY, 5.

IN DAMASCUS, FOREIGN MINISTER FAROUK AL-SHARAA STRESSED THAT SYRIA CONTINUED ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES, THE SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY REPORTED.

THE AGENCY SAID HE MADE THE COMMENT DURING A MEETING WITH IRISH AMBASSADOR DECLAN CONNOLLY, PARTLY TO DISCUSS THE CASE OF KIDNAPPED IRISHMAN BRIAN KEENAN, WHO WAS KIDNAPPED APRIL 11, 1986.

$END

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Swapping

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ISRAEL-PRISONERS

ISRAEL REPORTEDLY MAY SWAP PALESTINIANS FOR DEAD SOLDIER

JERUSALEM (AP) - ISRAEL MAY FREE SOME PALESTINIAN PRISONERS IN EXCHANGE FOR A SOLDIER'S BODY IN A DEAL WITH THE PLO THAT COULD BE CONCLUDED IN A MATTER OF MONTHS, AN ISRAELI ARAB PHYSICIAN REPORTEDLY INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS SAID SUNDAY.

DEFENSE MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN DENIED THE REPORT SAYING ''THERE IS NO BASIS FOR THAT INFORMATION IN REALITY OR IN ANY WAY.'' AN ARMY SPOKESMAN IN TEL AVIV REFUSED TO COMMENT.

THE PHYSICIAN, DR. AHMED TIBI, MADE THE STATEMENT IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW, CONFIRMING STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM OVER THE WEEKEND IN TWO ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS, YEDIOT AHRONOT AND HAARETZ, AND THE PALESTINIAN DAILY AL SHAAB.

''FROM THE PALESTINIAN SIDE THERE IS ONE BODY. ISRAEL HAS TO EXCHANGE SOMETHING FOR THIS BODY AND WILL DO SO, I THINK,'' TIBI SAID IN THE INTERVIEW.

''THERE IS GOOD WILL ON BOTH SIDES TO FINISH THIS MATTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IT MAY BE A MATTER OF MONTHS,'' TIBI TOLD THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

ISRAEL USUALLY REFUSES TO DIVULGE INFORMATION ABOUT PROSPECTIVE PRISONER SWAPS WITH ARAB COUNTRIES OR ORGANIZATIONS FOR FEAR THE PUBLICITY COULD FOIL A DEAL. SIX ISRAELI SOLDIERS ARE MISSING IN LEBANON SINCE 1982.

YEDIOT AHRONOT REPORTED THE BODY THAT MAY RETURNED IN EXCHANGE FOR PALESTINIAN PRISONERS WAS THAT OF SAMIR ASSAD, A DRUSE SERGEANT CAPTURED IN APRIL 1983 IN SOUTH LEBANON WHO LATER WAS REPORTED TO HAVE DIED. THE NEWSPAPER GAVE NO SOURCES FOR THE REPORT.

ASKED BY THE AP WHETHER THE SWAP WOULD BE FOR ASSAD'S BODY, TIBI SAID ONLY ''NO COMMENT.''

TIBI, AN ISRAELI-EDUCATED GYNECOLOGIST, HEADS A COMMITTEE OF ISRAELI ARAB ACADEMICS AND HAS BEEN SAID TO HAVE CONTACTS WITH PALESTINIANS INVOLVED IN TALKS FOR PROSPECTIVE PRISONER EXCHANGES.

IN JULY 1986, ISRAEL TURNED DOWN A BID BY THE PRO-MOSCOW DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (DFLP) TO TRADE ASSAD'S BODY FOR PALESTINIAN PRISONERS, SAYING IT WOULD NOT FREE PRISONERS FOR A CORPSE.

THE DFLP, A FACTION OF THE PLO, CLAIMED ASSAD WAS KILLED IN A JUNE 1984 ISRAELI AIR STRIKE ON RABBIT ISLAND OFF THE NORTH LEBANON COAST. ISRAEL HAS NEVER OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED ASSAD'S DEATH.

THE LAST ISRAELI PRISONER SWAP WITH PALESTINIANS WAS IN MAY 1985 WHEN 1,150 PALESTINIANS WERE FREED FROM JAILS IN EXCHANGE FOR THREE ISRAELI SOLDIERS CAPTURED IN LEBANON AND HELD IN SYRIA BY A PLO BREAKAWAY FACTION, THE POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE-GENERAL COMMAND, HEADED BY AHMED JIBRIL.

END (AF-GGL)

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RR0364

U I NCB052 01 NAT 888

LEBANON-ISRAEL HOSTAGE

WITH JERUSALEM - ISRAEL-UNREST

PRO-IRANIAN GROUP THREATENS TO KILL ISRAELI HOSTAGE

BEIRUT, LEBANON (AP) - PRO-IRANIAN SHIITE MOSLEM GUERRILLAS THREATENED MONDAY TO KILL AN ISRAELI CAPTIVE THEY HOLD IF ISRAEL CONTINUED ITS CRACKDOWN ON PALESTINIAN PROTESTERS IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP.

THE THREAT CAME IN A HANDWRITTEN ARABIC STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE ISLAMIC RESISTANCE FRONT AND DELIVERED TO A WESTERN NEWS AGENCY OFFICE IN WEST BEIRUT.

''WE DECLARE THAT AN ISRAELI PRISONER IN OUR CAPTIVITY HAS NOW ENTERED THE DANGER ZONE AND MIGHT FACE A BLACK FATE IF THE CRIMINAL ZIONISTS DO NOT HALT THEIR BRUTAL MEASURES AGAINST OUR MOSLEM PEOPLE IN PALESTINE,'' THE STATEMENT SAID.

ISLAMIC RESISTANCE IS A COALITION OF SHIITE FUNDAMENTALIST FACTIONS CARRYING GUERRILLA ATTACKS AGAINST ISRAEL FROM SOUTH LEBANON. THEY RECEIVE FINANCIAL AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM IRAN.

THE THREAT APPARENTLY WAS ISSUED IN RESPONSE TO AN APPEAL MADE BY FOUR PALESTINIAN ACTIVISTS DEPORTED FROM THE WEST BANK TO SOUTH LEBANON LAST MONTH.

''WE URGE THE ISLAMIC RESISTANCE TO THREATEN TO EXECUTE THE HOSTAGES IT HOLDS IN CASE ISRAEL CONTINUES ITS CRACKDOWN ON THE UPRISING IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA,'' BASHIR AHMED AL KHEIRI, ONE OF THE FOUR DEPORTEES, SAID JAN. 19.

MORE

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BEIRUT - LEBANON-ISRAEL HOSTAGE 2

HEZBOLLAH, OR PARTY OF GOD, THE MAIN FORCE IN THE ISLAMIC RESISTANCE FRONT, CLAIMS IT HOLDS TWO ISRAELI SOLDIERS CAPTURED IN A GUERRILLA AMBUSH IN SOUTH LEBANON ON FEB. 17, 1986.

ANOTHER SHIITE LEBANESE FACTION, AMAL, WHICH IS HEADED BY LEBANON'S JUSTICE MINISTER NABIH BERRI, SAYS IT IS HOLDING AN ISRAELI AIRMAN WHOSE F-4 FIGHTER-BOMBER WAS SHOT DOWN NEAR THE COASTAL SOUTHERN CITY OF SIDON ON OCT. 16, 1986.

AMAL IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE ISLAMIC RESISTANCE FRONT AS WELL AS THE LEBANESE NATIONAL RESISTANCE FRONT, WHICH IS MADE UP OF PRO-SYRIAN AND LEFTIST FACTIONS.

AL KHEIRI AND HIS THREE COMRADES WERE EXPELLED TO LEBANON ON DEC. 13 ON A CHARGE OF BEING RINGLEADERS OF THE PALESTINIAN RIOTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

END

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Swap.

AR0467

R I TLA296 01 888 ADM PSM FKG TLM

ISRAEL-SOUTH LEBANON

LAHD SAYS NEGOTIATIONS TAKING PLACE FOR RELEASE OF POWS

METULLAH, ISRAEL (AP) - ISRAEL IS NEGOTIATING A PRISONER EXCHANGE INVOLVING THREE ISRAELI SOLDIERS CAPTURED BY SHIITE MOSLEM GUERRILLAS IN LEBANON, THE COMMANDER OF AN ISRAELI-BACKED MILITIA PATROLLING SOUTHERN LEBANON SAID THURSDAY.

GEN. ANTOINE LAHD INDICATED THAT SHIITE PRISONERS HELD BY HIS MILITIA, THE PREDOMINANTLY CHRISTIAN SOUTH LEBANON ARMY, WERE BEING USED AS BARGAINING CHIPS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

HE SAID HE WOULD NOT AUTHORIZE PRISONERS TO BE RELEASED FROM HIS MILITIA'S KHIAM PRISON WHILE THE NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUED.

''THE LIBERATION OF DETAINEES FOR HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS ... HAS BEEN STOPPED BECAUSE OF ... NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING THE EXCHANGE OF AN ISRAELI NAVIGATOR AND SOME ISRAELI SOLDIERS AGAINST OTHER PRISONERS,'' LAHD TOLD REPORTERS.

HE WOULD NOT NAME THE PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OR PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS.

ISRAELI OFFICIALS HAVE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON SUCH NEGOTIATIONS.

AN ISRAELI AIR FORCE NAVIGATOR WAS SHOT DOWN OVER LEBANON DURING A BOMBING SORTIE OCT. 16, 1986. DEFENSE MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN LATER CONFIRMED THAT THE NAVIGATOR, WHOSE NAME HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED, WAS CAPTURED BY THE MAINSTREAM SHIITE AMAL MILITIA.

TWO OTHER SOLDIERS, YOSSI FINK AND RAHAMIM AL-SHEIKH, WERE TAKEN PRISONER IN A FEB. 17, 1986 AMBUSH BY HEZBOLLAH, A GROUP OF PRO-IRANIAN SHIITE EXTREMISTS.

IN ADDITION, THREE ISRAELI SOLDIERS WERE BELIEVED CAPTURED BY SYRIA IN A JUNE 1982 TANK BATTLE.

LAHD, A FORMER GENERAL IN THE LEBANESE ARMY, COMMANDS ABOUT 1,500 MILITIAMEN WHO PATROL THE ISRAEL'S SELF-PROCLAIMED SECURITY ZONE, A SIX-TO-10 MILE WIDE (10-TO-15 KILOMETERS) AREA NORTH OF THE ISRAELI-LEBANESE BORDER.

MORE

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METULLAH - ISRAEL-SOUTH LEBANON 2

ISRAEL ESTABLISHED THE ZONE AFTER WITHDRAWING THE BULK OF ITS TROOPS FROM SOUTH LEBANON IN JUNE 1985, FOLLOWING A THREE-YEAR OCCUPATION. HUNDREDS OF ISRAELI SOLDIERS REMAINED BEHIND TO BACK LAHD'S FORCE.

LAHD SAID HE DOUBTED THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE ''MANY OF THE LEBANESE GROUPS CANNOT DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES. THEY HAVE TO WAIT FOR ALL KINDS OF FOREIGN ELEMENTS TO DECIDE FOR THEM.''

IRAN EQUIPS, FINANCES AND TRAINS THE HEZBOLLAH ORGANIZATION WHILE SYRIA BACKS AMAL.

LAHD ESTABLISHED KHIAM PRISON IN 1985 AFTER ISRAEL WITHDREW FROM SOUTH LEBANON AND ABANDONED ANSAR PRISON, ESTABLISHED AFTER ITS INVASION OF LEBANON IN JUNE 1982.

ABOUT 300 PRISONERS ARE HELD AT KHIAM.

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, LAHD CHARGED THAT SHIITE GUERRILLAS USED SOLDIERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON (UNIFIL) AS A COVER FOR ATTACKS ON HIS TROOPS. HE SAID HIS MILITIAMEN COULD NOT FIRE BACK AT GUERRILLAS FOR FEAR OF HITTING U.N. SOLDIERS.

ON WEDNESDAY, HEZBOLLAH GUERRILLAS WERE ABLE TO PASS UNIFIL POSITIONS ON THEIR WAY TO ATTACK A SOUTH LEBANON ARMY OUTPOST, LAHD SAID. ONE MILITIAMAN WAS KILLED AND SEVEN WOUNDED IN THE FIGHTING.

LAHD ALSO SAID UNIFIL COMMANDER MAJ.-GEN. GUSTAV HAGGLUND HAS REFUSED TO MEET WITH HIM TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS.

THE U.N. PEACE-KEEPING CONTINGENT PATROLS THE AREA NORTH OF THE SECURITY ZONE AND IS OFTEN CAUGHT IN FIGHTING BETWEEN LAHD'S FORCES AND ISRAELI TROOPS ON THE ONE HAND, AND LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS ON THE OTHER.

END (DI/KL)

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R I JER401 01 888 ADM PSN FKG
ISRAEL-LEBANON

REPORT: ISRAEL OFFERRED PRISONERS SWAP IN LEBANON

JERUSALEM (AP) - ISRAEL HAS OFFERED TO SWAP 250 ARAB PRISONERS FOR THREE ISRAELI SOLDIERS CAPTURED IN LEBANON BY SHIITE MOSLEM GUERRILLAS LAST YEAR, SEVEN NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THURSDAY.

THE ARAB PRISONERS ARE HELD IN THE SOUTHERN LEBANESE VILLAGE OF KHIAM BY THE SOUTH LEBANESE ARMY, A PREDOMINANTLY CHRISTIAN ISRAELI-BACKED MILITIA.

HEZBOLLAH, ONE OF THE GROUPS BELIEVED TO HOLD ISRAELI SOLDIERS, HAS REJECTED THE OFFER, DENOUNCING IT AS ''BLACKMAIL AND DECEIT,'' THE NEWSPAPER YEDIOT AHRONOT SAID. HEZBOLLAH IS MADE UP OF PRO-IRANIAN SHIITE EXTREMISTS.

DEFENSE MINISTRY AND MILITARY OFFICIALS REFUSED COMMENT THURSDAY. A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WHO SPOKE ON CONDITION OF ANONYMITY SAID: ''ISRAEL ALWAYS HAS DONE ITS UTMOST TO BRING ITS BOYS BACK FROM CAPTIVITY, BUT WE CAN'T DISCLOSE DETAILS OF SUCH ACTIVITIES FOR OBVIOUS REASON.''

YEDIOT AHRONOT AND SIX OTHER DAILIES ATTRIBUTED THEIR REPORTS TO THE BEIRUT NEWSPAPER AN-NAHAR. AN EDITOR AT THE LEBANESE NEWSPAPER SAID THE INFORMATION STEMMED FROM THE VOICE OF HOPE RADIO STATION OF THE SOUTH LEBANON ARMY.

THE ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS SAID THE EXCHANGE OFFER REFERRED TO TWO ISRAELI SOLDIERS CAPTURED FEB. 17, 1986 IN AN AMBUSH IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, AND THE NAVIGATOR OF AN ISRAELI PHANTOM JET DOWNED IN SOUTHERN LEBANON ON OCT. 16, 1986.

THE MAINSTREAM SHIITE AMAL MILITIA HAS SAID IT HOLDS THE NAVIGATOR AND ISRAEL BELIEVES HEZBOLLAH CAPTURED THE OTHER TWO.

YEDIOT AHRONOT SAID ISRAELI BRIG. GEN. DAVID AGMON MADE THE EXCHANGE OFFER TUESDAY IN THE VILLAGE OF AINATA IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.

MORE

1445G 30 07 87

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RR0465
     R I JER421  01 888 ADM PSM TLM FKG
   ISRAEL-LEBANON SUBSTITUTION
   JERUSALEM - ISRAEL-LEBANON, TO ADD COMMENTS BY ISRAELI OFFICIAL
SUB FOR 4TH GRAF: DEFENSE MINISTRY X X X OBVIOUS REASON.''
   ISRAEL'S COORDINATOR OF ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON URI LUBRANI
DECLINED TO COMMENT DIRECTLY ON THE PRESS REPORTS THURSDAY, SAYING
ONLY THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WAS ''READY AND WILLING'' TO
NEGOTIATE FOR ITS MISSING SOLDIERS BUT HAD NOT RECEIVED A POSITIVE
RESPONSE FROM THOSE HOLDING THEM.
   ''THE OFFER TO NEGOTIATE ... IS A STANDING ONE,'' LUBRANI SAID
IN AN INTERVIEW ON ISRAEL RADIO. ''THERE ARE THINGS WE CAN OFFER
AND THINGS WHICH ARE OUT OF THE QUESTION.''
   LUBRANI SAID THE REPORTED FIGURE OF 250 PRISONERS IN A POSSIBLE
EXCHANGE WAS INACCURATE.
   ''IT SEEMS TO ME THE NUMBER IS NOT A PRECISE NUMBER, IT IS
ESTIMATED,'' LUBRANI SAID. ''I DON'T KNOW OF ANY 250.''
   YEDIOT AHRONOT: 5TH GRAF PREVIOUS (JER401) (JN)
2130G 30 07 87



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R I JER402 01 888 PSN ADM FKG TLM
JERUSALEM - ISRAEL-LEBANON 2

AINATA IS THE HOME OF SHEIK MOHAMMED HUSSEIN FADLALLAH, A HEZBOLLAH LEADER, THE NEWSPAPER SAID. FADLALLAH'S OFFICE IN BEIRUT ON THURSDAY ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING THERE WERE NO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ISRAELIS.

ANTOINE LAHD, THE COMMANDER OF THE SOUTH LEBANON ARMY, HAS SAID HE IS WILLING TO FREE KHIAM PRISONERS IN EXCHANGE FOR MISSING ISRAELIS, BUT THAT NINE OF HIS MEN MISSING IN LEBANON MUST ALSO BE INCLUDED IN THE DEAL.

LAHD'S 1,200-MEMBER MILITIA HOLDS ABOUT 350 PRISONERS, MOST OF THEM SHIITES, AT KHIAM. THE VILLAGE IS LOCATED IN ISRAEL'S SELF-PROCLAIMED SECURITY ZONE, A SIX- TO 10-MILE-WIDE (10 TO 15 KILOMETERS) STRIP NORTH OF THE ISRAELI-LEBANESE BORDER.

ISRAEL CREATED THE ZONE IN JUNE 1985 AFTER WITHDRAWING THE BULK OF ITS TROOPS FROM LEBANON, ENDING A THREE-YEAR OCCUPATION. THE ZONE IS PATROLLED BY LAHD'S MILITIA AND ABOUT 1,000 ISRAELI SOLDIERS.

END (SMS/KL)
1447G 30 07 87

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, Problem of Israeli's in Kid. + Swap

RR0316

U I NCB054 01 888 NAT NCM

AMAL-HOSTAGES

AMAL LEADER INSISTS ON SWAP WITH ISRAEL

MANAMA, BAHRAIN (AP) - NABIH BERRI, THE LEADER OF LEBANON'S SHIITE MOSLEM AMAL MOVEMENT, WAS QUOTED SUNDAY AS SAYING THAT ANGLICAN CHURCH ENVOY TERRY WAITE AND THREE AMERICAN AND AN INDIAN ACADEMIC WOULD BE RELEASED FROM CAPTIVITY IF 400 PALESTINIAN AND AMAL PRISONERS WERE FREED FROM ISRAELI JAILS.

BERRI TOLD THE LONDON-BASED DAILY NEWSLETTER MIDEAST MIRROR IN AN INTERVIEW THAT AN ISRAELI PILOT CAPTURED IN SHIITE-DOMINATED SOUTHERN LEBANON WOULD ALSO BE RELEASED AS PART OF THE PROPOSED SWAP.

THE TEXT OF THE INTERVIEW WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE ASSOCIATED PRESS IN BAHRAIN BY TELEPHONE.

BERRI INSISTED THE SWAP WAS ''THE ONLY SOLUTION.''

HE REVEALED THAT WAITE WAS HELD BY THE BEIRUT-BASED PRO-IRANIAN MOSLEM FUNDAMENTALIST ISLAMIC JIHAD GROUP.

WAITE DISAPPEARED IN MOSLEM WEST BEIRUT JAN. 20 AFTER LEAVING HIS HOTEL WHILE ON A MISSION TO NEGOTIATE FOR THE RELEASE OF FOREIGNERS HELD HOSTAGE BY LEBANESE EXTREMISTS, INCLUDING ISLAMIC JIHAD.

BERRI DUCKED A QUESTION ABOUT REPORTS THAT WAITE'S RELEASE HINGED ON THE RELEASE OF FOUR IRANIAN DIPLOMATS BELIEVED HELD BY CHRISTIAN MILITIA FORCES IN EAST BEIRUT.

A STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO WAITE'S CAPTORS HAD THREATENED TO KILL HIM IF THE IRANIANS HAVE BEEN KILLED BY THEIR CHRISTIAN CAPTORS.

BERRI TOLD THE MIDEAST MIRROR THAT WAITE'S RELEASE DEPENDED ON ISRAEL'S RESPONSE TO AN OFFER TO SWAP THE FOUR ACADEMICS FOR THE 400 PALESTINIANS AND LEBANESE SHIITES.

MORE

2027G 29 03 87

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RR0327
U I NCB056 01 388 NAT NCM
MANAMA - AMAL-HOSTAGES 2

''RELEASE OF THE FOUR (ACADEMNICS) AS FAR AS I KNOW, WILL SETTLE WAITE'S CASE,'' BERRI SAID. ''LIKEWISE, RELEASE OF THE MEN DETAINED IN KUWAIT WILL SETTLE THE CASE OF THE GERMAN AND FRENCH HOSTAGES. THIS DOES NOT EXCLUDE OTHER SOLUTIONS THAT COULD HELP ALL (OTHER) HOSTAGES GAIN THEIR FREEDOM.''

HE REFUSED TO ELABORATE, SAYING MERELY THAT UNDISCLOSED OPTIONS WERE ''UNDER STUDY'' BY UNIDENTIFIED GROUPS IN LEBANON.

A TOTAL OF 24 FOREIGNERS,IN ADDITION TO WAITE, ARE BELIEVED HELD AS HOSTAGES IN LEBANON. THEY ARE EIGHT AMERICANS, SIX FRENCHMEN, TWO BRITONS, TWO WEST GERMANS, AN ITALIAN, AN IRISHMAN, A SOUTH KOREAN, AND INDIAN AND TWO UNIDENTIFIED.

THE FOUR ACADEMICS REFERRED TO BY BERRI ARE THREE AMERICANS AND AN INDIAN, WHO ARE INCLUDED IN THE TOTAL OF 24.

ISLAMIC JIHAD HAS DEMANDED THE RELEASE OF 17 TERRORISTS IMPRISONED IN KUWAIT FOR A SERIES OF BOMB ATTACKS THERE IN 1983.

BERRI REJECTED AS ''INSOLENT AND INADMISSIBLE'' A QUESTION ON WHETHER AMAL WAS INVOLVED IN THE ABDUCTIONS.

''I DEFY ANYONE TO PROVE OR CHARGE OR CLAIM THAT AMAL HELPED TO GAIN THE RELEASE OF A HOSTAGE...IN EXCHANGE FOR A GIFT, A SUM OF MONEY OR ANYTHING ELSE,'' HE SAID.

BERRI SAID THAT WHEN A TWA JETLINER WAS HIJACKED AND FORCED TO LAND IN BEIRUTT IN 1985, AMAL OFFERED FOOD AND OTHER RELIEF AID TO THE PASSENGERS AND CREW.

''WE WERE OFFERED TWO MILLION DOLLARS BY THE (TWA) COMPANY TO RECOVER THE AIRCRAFT,'' HE SAID. ''I TURNED DOWN THE OFFER AND HELPED WIN THE RELEASE OF BOTH THE AIRCRAFT AND CREW WITH NOTHING IN RETURN. I EVEN REFUSED TO RECEIVE A TEAM FROM TWA,'' BERRI SAID.

END
2058G 29 03 87

*Problem of Israelis in Kd. & Swaps

RR0291

U I NCB053 01 NAT 888

LEBANON-HOSTAGES

BERRI RENEWS OFFER TO SWAP ISRAELI FLIER FOR ARAB PRISONERS

BEIRUT, LEBANON (AP) - SHIITE MOSLEM MILITIA CHIEFTAIN NABIH BERRI ON SATURDAY RENEWED AN OFFER TO SWAP AN ISRAELI FLIER FOR 400 ARAB PRISONERS HELD IN ISRAEL SO THAT MOSLEM KIDNAPPERS COULD RELEASE THREE AMERICANS AND AN INDIAN HELD HOSTAGE IN LEBANON.

''MY OFFER TO SWAP THE ISRAELI AIRMAN FOR THE ARAB PRISONERS STILL STANDS,'' SAID BERRI, WHO ALSO DOUBLES AS LEBANON'S JUSTICE MINISTER.

BERRI'S MAINSTREAM SHIITE AMAL MILITIA CAPTURED THE ISRAELI AIRMAN AFTER PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS DOWNED HIS WARPLANE WHILE RAIDING GUERRILLA TARGETS IN SOUTH LEBANON LAST OCT. 16.

ISLAMIC JIHAD FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE, WHICH HOLDS THE FOUR HOSTAGES, HAD ORIGINALLY OFFERED TO SWAP THEM FOR 400 ARAB PRISONERS HELD IN ISRAEL.

THE GROUP, HOWEVER, DROPPED THE OFFER LATER AFTER ISRAEL REFUSED TO GIVE IN TO THE TERRORISTS' DEMAND.

THE FOUR CAPTIVES ARE ROBERT POLHILL, 53, OF NEW YORK CITY= ALANN STEEN, 47, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS= JESSE TURNER, 39, OF BOISE, IDAHO= AND MITHILESHWAR SINGH, 60, A NATIVE OF INDIA AND LEGAL RESIDENT ALIEN OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE KIDNAPPERS ON THURSDAY RELEASED A VIDEOTAPE OF TURNER SAYING STEEN ''IS DYING''

ISLAMIC JIHAD FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE OFFERED MONDAY TO FREE STEEN IF THE UNITED STATES SUCCEEDED IN CONVINCING ISRAEL TO FREE 100 ARAB PRISONERS IN 10 DAYS.

ISRAEL, HOWEVER, REFUSED AND THE UNITED STATES REFUSED TO PRESSURE THE JEWISH STATE INTO ACCEPTING THE KIDNAPPERS' DEMAND.

TWENTY-FOUR FOREIGNERS ARE MISSING AND BELIEVED KIDNAPPED IN LEBANON SINCE 1985. ALSO MISSING IS ANGLICAN CHURCH HOSTAGE NEGOTIATOR TERRY WAITE, WHO DISAPPEARED JAN. 20.

END

(MS-MDM)

1535G 28 03 87

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✓ x Israeli Prisoners in Leb etc
x Other Foreign Prisoners in Leb.
x Israel - Leb

RR0241

U I TVA024 TLM 01 PSM ADM 398

ISRAEL-HOSTAGES

SHAMIR REJECTS OUT TALKS ON HOSTAGES

BY ALLYN FISHER

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

JERUSALEM (AP) - PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK SHAMIR ON TUESDAY REJECTED NEGOTIATIONS WITH A LEBANESE GROUP THAT PROPOSED EXCHANGING AN AILING AMERICAN HOSTAGE FOR 100 ARAB PRISONERS HELD BY ISRAEL.

''IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS IS BLACKMAIL, AND WE WON'T ENTER INTO TALKS WITH THESE TYPES OF ORGANIZATIONS,'' SHAMIR TOLD REPORTERS.

ASKED IF ISRAEL WOULD HOLD TO ITS POLICY OF REFUSING TO NEGOTIATE WITH TERRORISTS DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE KIDNAPPERS SAID THE HOSTAGE MAY DIE WITHIN 10 DAYS, SHAMIR SAID:

''IT'S NOT OUR FAULT. WE WOULD LIKE TO HELP HIM, BUT I DON'T THINK WE CAN HELP HIM BY (NEGOTIATING AN EXCHANGE),'' SHAMIR SAID AFTER SPEAKING TO THE HOLOCAUST CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL FUND, A NEW INTERNATIONAL JEWISH ORGANIZATION.

AVI PAZNER, SPOKESMAN FOR SHAMIR, SAID MONDAY NIGHT THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT CONSIDER THE KIDNAPPERS' DEMANDS ''BECAUSE ISRAEL DOES NOT NEGOTIATE WITH TERRORISTS.''

A STATEMENT DELIVERED MONDAY TO A BEIRUT NEWSPAPER AND SIGNED BY THE ISLAMIC JIHAD FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE SAID AMERICAN PROFESSOR ALANN STEEN, 47, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, HAD BECOME ILL IN CAPTIVITY AND COULD DIE WITHIN 10 DAYS.

STEEN WAS ONE OF FOUR PROFESSORS ABDUCTED FROM THE WEST BEIRUT CAMPUS OF BEIRUT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ON JAN. 24 BY GUNMEN POSING AS LEBANESE POLICE.

MORE

1220G 24 03 87

RR0339

U I TVA854 01 TLM 888 PSM ADM

ISRAEL-HOSTAGES INSERT

JERUSALEM - ISRAEL-HOSTAGES (TVA824) INSERT TO EXPAND AFTER 4TH GRAF: IT'S NOT X X X JEWISH ORGANIZATION.

FOREIGN MINISTER SHIMON PERES WAS LESS CATEGORICAL IN A STATEMENT TO REPORTERS ''WE ARE NOT NEGOTIATING OR LOOKING FOR NEGOTIATIONS OF THIS TYPE.''

HE TOLD ABOUT 200 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS LATER THAT ''IN GENERAL, I BELIEVE THERE SHOULD NOT BE EXCHANGES OF HOSTAGES FOR TERRORISTS.''

BUT PERES ADDED THAT ''LIFE IS FULL OF CONTRADICTIONS'' AND THERE WAS ROOM TO MAKE EXCEPTIONS IF ISRAELI SERVICEMEN WERE INVOLVED.

''IF THERE ARE PEOPLE SENT BY THE ISRAELI ARMY...BEYOND ENEMY LINES, AND THEY FALL PRISONER TO THE TERRORISTS, THE COUNTRY CANNOT REST EVEN A MOMENT UNTIL THEY ARE BROUGHT BACK HOME.''

''AND IN THE ABSENCE OF MILITARY MEANS TO FREE THEM, OTHER MEANS SHOULD BE CHECKED,'' PERES SAID. ''I WOULDN'T MAKE IT A RULE. THE RULE IS NOT TO BARGAIN BUT THERE IS DEFINITELY ROOM FOR AN EXCEPTION WHEN WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE CONDITIONS I DESCRIBED.''

AN ISRAELI NAVIGATOR, SHOT DOWN OVER THE SOUTH LEBANON CITY OF SIDON LAST OCTOBER, IS HELD BY THE LEBANESE SHIITE MOSLEM GROUP AMAL.

ISRAEL'S LONGSTANDING POLICY HAS BEEN NOT TO NEGOTIATE WITH TERRORISTS. BUT THIS WAS ABANDONED FOR A SERIES OF LOPSIDED EXCHANGES WITH PALESTINIAN GROUPS IN LEBANON.

IN NOVEMBER, 1983, FOR EXAMPLE, ISRAEL FREED 4,000 LEBANESE AND PALESTINIANS PRISONERS IN EXCHANGE FOR SIX ISRAELI SOLDIERS AND IN MAY 1985. SOME 1,050 PRISONERS WERE RELEASED FOR THREE ISRAELI SOLDIERS.

AVI PAZNER: 5TH GRAF ISRAEL-HOSTAGES

END (NT)

1558G 24 03 87

RR0242

U I TVA825 01 TLK PSN ADM 888

JERUSALEM - ISRAEL-HOSTAGES 2

THE STATEMENT, WHICH WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A PHOTOGRAPH OF STEEN, SAID THE KIDNAPPERS WOULD FREE THE AMERICAN IF THE UNITED STATES PERSUADED ISRAEL TO FREE 100 DETAINEES.

''IF THESE TERRORISTS PRETEND THAT THE MAN IS SICK, THEN THEY MUST RELEASE HIM IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS,'' PAZNER SAID IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW.

''THESE KIDNAPPINGS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH ISRAEL,'' PAZNER SAID WHEN ASKED IF ISRAEL WOULD CONSIDER THE GROUP'S DEMAND. ''ISRAEL HAS A LONGSTANDING POLICY OF NOT NEGOTIATING WITH TERRORISTS.''

ISRAEL'S NEWSPAPERS AND STATE-OWNED BROADCAST MEDIA CARRIED NO OFFICIAL REACTION TO THE DEMANDS BY THE LEBANESE GROUP, WHICH IS BELIEVED TO BE IRANIAN-INFLUENCED.

END (NT-AF)

1222G 24 03 87

[illegible]

RR0294

R I TVA831 01 888 ADM PSM

ISRAEL-HOSTAGE CORRECTION

JERUSALEM - ISRAEL-HOSTAGE 2 (TVA825), TO CORRECT IDENTITY OF HOSTAGE IN PHOTOGRAPH.

THE STATEMENT, WHICH WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A PHOTOGRAPH OF ROBERT POLHILL, ANOTHER OF THE ABDUCTED PROFESSORS, SAID THE KIDNAPPERS WOULD FREE STEEN IF THE UNITED STATES PRESUADED ISRAEL TO FREE 100 DETAINEES.

''IF THESE: 2ND GRAF PREVIOUS (D1)

1417G 24 03 87

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U I WCD893 02 MAR 888 LDM

LEBANON-HOSTAGES

BERRI OFFERS TO SWAP ISRAELI FOR PRISONERS= ITALIAN EMBASSY RETURNS, COMBINES LEBANON-VIOLENCE AND LEBANON-WRITE STORIES

BY FAROUK NASSAR

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BEIRUT, LEBANON (AP) - JUSTICE MINISTER NABIH BERRI RENEWED AN OFFER TUESDAY TO TRADE AN ISRAELI AIRMAN CAPTURED BY HIS SHIITE MOSLEM MILITIA FOR 400 ARAB PRISONERS PLUS THREE AMERICANS AND ONE INDIAN KIDNAPPED BY MOSLEM EXTREMISTS.

MEANWHILE, CHRISTIAN PRESIDENT AMIN GEMAYEL RECEIVED A BLUEPRINT OF POLITICAL REFORMS DEMANDED BY MOSLEM LEADERS TO END LEBANON'S NEARLY 12-YEAR-OLD CIVIL WAR THAT HAS CLAIMED MORE THAN 100,000 LIVES.

STATE-RUN RADIO BEIRUT SAID ITALIAN AMBASSADOR ANTONIO MANCINI NOTIFIED INTERIOR MINISTER ABDALLAH RASSI THAT THE ITALIAN EMBASSY HAS REACTIVATED ITS OPERATIONS IN MOSLEM WEST BEIRUT ON TUESDAY.

THE RADIO DID NOT ELABORATE AND EMBASSY SPOKESMEN WERE NOT REACHABLE IN EITHER THE MOSLEM OR CHRISTIAN SECTORS OF THE WAR-DIVIDED CAPITAL TO VERIFY THE REPORT.

IF THE REPORT WAS ACCURATE, THE ITALIAN EMBASSY WOULD BE THE FIRST WESTERN DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO RETURN TO WEST BEIRUT AFTER SYRIA'S MILITARY INTERVENTION TO STAMP OUT THE LAWLESS REIGN OF FEUDING MILITIAS.

APART FROM THE GREEK EMBASSY, ALL WESTERN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND MOST OF THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY FLED THE CHAOS CAUSED BY RIVAL MILITIAS THAT HAD TURNED WEST BEIRUT INTO A HAVEN OF KIDNAPPERS, ASSASSINS AND AIRCRAFT HIJACKERS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS.

TWENTY-SIX FOREIGNERS, KIDNAPPED BY GUNMEN IN WEST BEIRUT IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, ARE STILL MISSING AND BELIEVED BEING HELD CAPTIVE.

THE SYRIANS, WHO SENT 7,500 TROOPS AND 100 TANKS TO WEST BEIRUT FEB. 22, HAVE POSTED GUARDS AROUND ALL EMBASSIES AND URGED DIPLOMATS AND OTHER FOREIGNERS TO RETURN.

MORE

1740G 03 03 87

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RR0430

U I NCD058 01 NAT 888

LEBANON-HOSTAGES INSERT

BEIRUT - LEBANON-HOSTAGES, NCD893, TO UPDATE WITH PREMIER URGING EMBASSIES TO RETURN, INSERT AFTER LAST GRAF: THE SYRIANS X X X TO RETURN.

PRIME MINISTER RASHID KARAMI ALSO CALLED ON FOREIGN EMBASSIES TO TO REOPEN IN WEST BEIRUT AND VOWED TO PROTECT THEM.

''WE SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR SECURITY AND THAT OF THEIR INSTITUTIONS,'' KARAMI SAID IN A LATE NIGHT STATEMENT.

KARAMI, A SUNNI MOSLEM, IS THE SUPERVISOR OF THE SYRIAN PEACE-ENFORCING OPERATION IN WEST BEIRUT.

IN RENEWING, 1ST GRAF LEBANON-HOSTAGES 2, NCD094

1934G 03 03 87

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RR0382

U I NCD894 01 NAT 386 LDN

BEIRUT - LEBANON-HOSTAGES 2

IN RENEWING HIS SWAP OFFER, BERRI URGED ISLAMIC JIHAD FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE TO FREE THE FOUR PROFESSORS IT KIDNAPPED FROM THE CAMPUS OF THE BEIRUT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE JAN. 21.

''WE ARE PREPARED FOR THE SWAP THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS AS SOON AS THE FOUR CAPTIVES ARE RELEASED,'' BERRI TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE AT HIS RESIDENCE IN WEST BEIRUT.

THEY ARE ROBERT POLHILL, 53, OF NEW YORK CITY= ALANN STEEN, 47, A NATIVE OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSSETTS= JESSE TURNER, 39, OF BOISE, IDAHO, AND MITHILESHWAR SINGH, 60, A NATIVE OF INDIA AND LEGAL RESIDENT ALIEN OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE KIDNAPPERS HAD OFFERED TO SWAP THEM FOR 400 ARAB PRISONERS IN ISRAELI JAILS.

ISRAEL REFUSED TO NEGOTIATE THE SWAP AND THE ISLAMIC JIHAD FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE WITHDREW THE OFFER AFTER EXTENDING A DEADLINE TO KILL THE FOUR EDUCATORS ''UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.''

BERRI'S AMAL MILITIA HOLDS THE ISRAELI, A NAVIGATOR OF A PHANTOM FIGHTER-BOMBER SHOT DOWN BY PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS WHILE ON A RAID IN SOUTH LEBANON LAST OCT. 16.

''WE HAVE PROVIDED THE ICRC WITH A LIST OF THOSE WE WANT FREED, BUT THE PALESTINIANS HAVE NOT NAMED THE 400 PRISONERS THEY WANT ISRAEL TO RELEASE,'' BERRI SAID. HE DID NOT ELABORATE.

A REPORT IN THE LEFTIST BEIRUT NEWSPAPER AS-SAFIR SAID THAT A PRO-IRANIAN SHIITE CLERIC HAS RECEIVED A LETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY ROBERT RUNCIE THANKING HIM FOR EFFORTS TO FREE HOSTAGE NEGOTIATOR TERRY WAITE.

WAITE, RUNCIE'S PERSONAL ENVOY, DISAPPEARED JAN. 20, WHEN HE LEFT HIS WEST BEIRUT SEASIDE RIVIERA HOTEL TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE CAPTORS OF TWO AMERICAN HELD SINCE 1985.

MORE

1746G 03 03 87

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U I NCD835 01 NAT 886 LDN

BEIRUT - LEBANON-HOSTAGES 3

AS-SAFIR SAID SHEIK MUHAMMED HUSSEIN FADLALLAH, THE REPUTED SPIRITUAL GUIDE OF THE IRANIAN-BACKED EXTREMIST HEZBOLLAH FACTION, RECEIVED RUNCIE'S LETTER ''A FEW DAYS AGO.''

THERE WAS NO REACTION TO THE REPORT FROM OFFICIALS AT RUNCIE'S SEAT, LAMBETH PALACE.

AS-SAFIR SAID RUNCIE HAD ''SENT A LETTER TO FADLALLAH UPON WAITE'S ABDUCTION REQUESTING HIS HELP'' IN OBTAINING THE NEGOTIATOR'S FREEDOM.

FADLALLAH REPLIED TO RUNCIE'S FIRST LETTER ''EXPLAINING THAT HE HAD EXERTED INTENSE EFFORTS, BUT FAILED TO OBTAIN THE ANGLICAN ENVOY'S FREEDOM,'' AS-SAFIR SAID.

GEMAYEL'S PERSONAL EMISSARY HANI SALAM RETURNED FROM THE SYRIAN CAPITAL OF DAMASCUS TUESDAY AND HANDED THE PRESIDENT THE BLUEPRINT OF THE MOSLEM LEADERS' DEMAND FOR POLITICAL REFORMS, A PRESIDENTIAL PALACE SPOKESMAN SAID.

''THE PRESIDENT WILL STUDY THE BLUEPRINT AND CONSULT WITH OTHER CHRISTIAN LEADERS TO FORMULATE A UNIFIED CHRISTIAN STAND,'' SAID THE SPOKESMAN, WHO DECLINED TO BE NAMED.

LEBANESE MOSLEM LEADERS MET IN DAMASCUS LAST WEEK AND AGREED ON POLITICAL REFORMS THAT AIMED AT ENDING THE FEUD WITH CHRISTIANS AND END LEBANON'S CIVIL STRIFE. SYRIA IS THE MAIN POWER BROKER IN LEBANON AND MAINTAINS TROOPS IN NORTHERN AND EASTERN LEBANON AS WELL AS IN WEST BEIRUT.

THE LEBANESE MEDIA SAID THE BLUEPRINT INVOLVES THREE MAJOR AMENDMENTS OF THE LEBANESE CONSTITUTION AIMED AT GIVING MOSLEMS A STRONGER SAY IN THE NATION'S DECISION-MAKING BY CUTTING DOWN THE POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT, TRADITIONALLY A MARONITE CATHOLIC.

THE LEBANESE FORCES, THE NATION'S LARGEST CHRISTIAN MILITIA, HAS DECLARED ITS OUTRIGHT REJECTION OF ANY ATTEMPT TO CUT DOWN THE PRESIDENT'S POWERS.

END

1749G 03 03 87

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RR0279 Israeli prisoners in Lebanon etc. –

U I NCB033 01 NAT LDM 888 & Other foreign hostages in Lebanon

LEAD LEBANON-WAITE

EDS: UPDATES WITH BERRI RENEWING OFFER TO SWAP ISRAELI FLIER FOR ARAB PRISONERS IN ISRAEL

BEIRUT, LEBANON (AP) - JUSTICE MINISTER NABIH BERRI ON TUESDAY RENEWED AN OFFER TO SWAP AN ISRAELI AIRMAN HELD CAPTIVE BY HIS SHIITE AMAL MILITIA FOR ARAB PRISONERS IN ISRAELI JAILS PLUS THREE AMERICANS AND ONE INDIAN KIDNAPPED BY MOSLEM EXTREMISTS.

''WE ARE PREPARED FOR THE SWAP THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS AS SOON AS THE FOUR CAPTIVES ARE RELEASED,'' BERRI TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE AT HIS RESIDENCE IN MOSLEM WEST BEIRUT.

THE FOUR EDUCATORS WERE KIDNAPPED FROM THE CAMPUS OF BEIRUT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE JAN. 24 BY GUNMEN DISGUISED AS RIOT POLICEMEN.

THEY ARE ROBERT POLHILL, 53, OF NEW YORK CITY, ALANN STEEN, 47, A NATIVE OF BOSTON, JESSE TURNER, 39, OF BOISE, IDAHO, AND MITHILESHWAR SINGH, 60, A NATIVE OF INDIA AND LEGAL RESIDENT ALIEN OF THE UNITED STATES.

AN UNDERGROUND GROUP CALLING ITSELF ISLAMIC JIHAD FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE OFFERED TO SWAP THE FOUR EDUCATORS FOR 400 ARAB PRISONERS HELD IN ISRAEL.

ISRAEL HAS REFUSED TO NEGOTIATE THE SWAP AND THE KIDNAPPERS WITHDREW THE OFFER AFTER EXTENDING A DEADLINE TO KILL THE FOUR TEACHERS.

BERRI'S AMAL MILITIA HOLDS THE ISRAELI AIRMAN, THE NAVIGATOR OF A PHANTOM FIGHTER-BOMBER SHOT DOWN BY PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS WHILE CARRYING OUT AN AIR ATTACK OCT. 16.

BERRI SAID HE ALSO WANTS ISRAEL TO RELEASE AN UNDISCLOSED NUMBER OF LEBANESE HELD IN ISRAELI JAILS IN EXCHANGE FOR THE FLIER.

MORE

1356G 03 03 87

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RR0230

U I NCB035 01 NAT LDN 888

BEIRUT - LEAD LEBANON-WAITE 2

''WE HAVE PROVIDED THE ICRC WITH A LIST OF THOSE WHOM WE WANT FREED, BUT THE PALESTINIANS HAVE NOT NAMED THE 400 PRISONERS THEY WANT ISRAEL TO RELEASE,'' BERRI SAID WITHOUT FURTHER ELABORATION.

A LEFTIST NEWSPAPER SAID EARLIER THAT A PRO-IRANIAN SHIITE MOSLEM CLERIC HAS RECEIVED A LETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY ROBERT RUNCIE THANKING HIM FOR EFFORTS TO FREE HOSTAGE NEGOTIATOR TERRY WAITE.

AS-SAFIR, 2ND GRAF LEBANON-WAITE

1357G 03 03 87

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✓ * Israeli prisoners in Lebanon
etc.

* U.S hostages in Lebanon

* SLA - file -

RR0243

U I TVA564 01 888 ADM PSN

LEAD ISRAEL-HOSTAGES

EDS: UPDATES WITH QUOTES FROM LAHD. NO PICKUP.

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL (AP) - THE COMMANDER OF AN ISRAELI-BACKED MILITIA IN SOUTH LEBANON WAS QUOTED THURSDAY AS SAYING HE WOULD BE READY TO FREE ARAB DETAINEES IN EXCHANGE FOR ISRAELI SOLDIERS AND LEBANESE MILITIAMEN MISSING IN LEBANON.

ANTOINE LAHD, A FORMER LEBANESE ARMY GENERAL WHO COMMANDS THE ISRAELI-FINANCED SOUTH LEBANON ARMY, WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT IN EXCHANGE FOR ISRAELI POWS AND NINE OF HIS OWN MISSING MILITIAMEN HE WOULD FREE LEBANESE DETAINEES HELD IN THE VILLAGE AL KHIAM.

''SUCH AN EXCHANGE DEAL IS POSSIBLE BUT IT SHOULD INCLUDE SEVERAL BODIES AND SOUTH LEBANON ARMY SOLDIERS WHO WERE KIDNAPPED OR KILLED BY SHIITE EXTREMISTS DURING HOSTILE OPERATIONS,'' LAHD WAS QUOTED AS TELLING THE MILITARY CORRESPONDENT OF THE DAILY MAARIV.

LAHD SAID HE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY FORMAL REQUEST TO FREE PRISONERS, MAARIV REPORTED.

LAHD'S APPARENT NEW WILLINGNESS TO AGREE TO AN EXCHANGE COULD OPEN THE WAY FOR NEGOTIATIONS TO FREE FOREIGN HOSTAGES HELD IN LEBANON IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PROPOSAL EARLIER THIS MONTH BY LEBANON'S SHIITE MOSLEM LEADER NABIH BERRI.

BERRI CALLED ON ISRAEL TO FREE 400 LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN PRISONERS, AND IN RETURN HE WOULD FREE AN ISRAELI AIRMAN CAPTURED BY HIS AMAL MILITIA ON OCT. 16 AND MEDIATE THE RETURN OF THE FOUR BEIRUT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE PROFESSORS.

THE FOUR, THREE AMERICANS AND AN INDIAN, WERE KIDNAPPED ON JAN. 24 BY A GROUP CALLING ITSELF THE ISLAMIC JIHAD FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE, WHICH DEMANDED FROM ISRAEL TO FREE 400 PALESTINIANS.

MORE

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U I TVA565 01 888 ADM PSM

TEL AVIV - LEAD ISRAEL-HOSTAGES 2

BUT LAHD, ACCORDING TO THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY JERUSALEM POST, DISTINQUISHED BETWEEN THE ''MILITARY MATTER'' OF THE AIRMAN'S EXCHANGE AND THE ''HUMANITARIAN QUESTION'' OF AMERICAN HOSTAGES, WHICH ''SHOULD BE HANDLED SEPARATELY.''

THE NEWSPAPER REPORTED THAT LAHD SAID HE HAD NO PROOF THAT BERRI COULD OTAIN THE RELEASE OF THE AIRMEN OR THE FOREIGN HOSTAGES. BUT HE ADDED: ''MY OWN FEELING IS THAT IF THE SYRIANS GIVE HIM (BERRI) PERMISSION HE COULD DO IT.''

ISRAELI LEADERS HAVE INDICATED THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE THE RELEASE OF ARAB PRISONERS IN RETURN FOR SOME OR ALL OF ITS SEVEN SOLDIERS MISSING OR HELD CAPTIVE IN LEBANON.

ISRAEL HOLDS IN ITS JAILS SOME 3,000 PALESTINIANS FOR SECURITY-RELATED OFFENSES, AS WELL AS 30 TO 40 SHIITES ROUNDED UP IN LEBANON.

SOME 200 TO 400 SHIITES ARE BELIEVED HELD BY LAHD'S MILITIA IN AL KHIAM, 5 KILOMETERS (3 MILES) NORTH OF ISRAEL'S BORDER.

LAHD HIMSELF REPORTEDLY TOLD JERUSALEM POST THE NUMBER OF DETAINEES IN AL KHIAM FLUCTUATED BETWEEN 250 AND 300 DETAINEES.

LAHD HEADS A 1,500-MEMBER PREDOMINANTLY CHRISTIAN MILITIA TRAINED BY ISRAEL TO PATROL A 10-TO-16 KILOMETER (6-TO-10 MILE) WIDE BUFFER STRIP ALONG THE LEBANON-ISRAEL BORDER.

END (SMS-RS)

1148G 13 02 87

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R 1 TVA541 01 888 ADM PSM TLM

ISRAEL-HOSTAGES

LAHD SAYS HE IS READY TO EXCHANGE PRISONERS FOR ISRAELI POWS

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL (AP) - THE COMMANDER OF AN ISRAELI-BACKED MILITIA IN SOUTH LEBANON SAID HE WOULD BE READY TO FREE ARAB DETAINEES IN EXCHANGE FOR ISRAELI SOLDIERS AND LEBANESE MILITIAMEN MISSING IN LEBANON, ISRAEL ARMY RADIO REPORTED THURSDAY.

ANTOINE LAHD, A FORMER LEBANESE ARMY GENERAL WHO COMMANDS THE ISRAELI-FINANCED SOUTH LEBANON ARMY, WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT IN EXCHANGE FOR ISRAELI POWS AND NINE OF HIS OWN MISSING MILITIAMEN HE WOULD FREE LEBANESE DETAINEES HELD IN THE VILLAGE AL KHIAM.

THE RADIO QUOTED LAHD AS SAYING HE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY FORMAL REQUEST TO FREE PRISONERS.

THE REPORTED ANNOUNCEMENT COULD OPEN THE WAY FOR NEGOTIATIONS TO FREE FOREIGN HOSTAGES HELD IN LEBANON IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PROPOSAL EARLIER THIS MONTH BY LEBANON'S SHIITE MOSLEM LEADER NABIH BERRI.

BERRI CALLED ON ISRAEL TO FREE 400 LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN PRISONERS, AND IN RETURN HE WOULD FREE AN ISRAELI AIRMAN CAPTURED BY HIS AMAL MILITIA ON OCT. 16 AND MEDIATE THE RETURN OF THE FOUR BEIRUT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE PROFESSORS.

THE FOUR, THREE AMERICANS AND AN INDIAN, WERE KIDNAPPED ON JAN. 24 BY A GROUP CALLING ITSELF THE ISLAMIC JIHAD FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE, WHICH DEMANDED FROM ISRAEL TO FREE 400 PALESTINIANS.

ISRAELI LEADERS HAVE INDICATED THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE THE RELEASE OF ARAB PRISONERS IN RETURN FOR SOME OR ALL OF ITS SEVEN SOLDIERS MISSING OR HELD CAPTIVE IN LEBANON.

MORE

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TEL AVIV - ISRAEL-HOSTAGES 2

ISRAEL HOLDS IN ITS JAILS SOME 3,000 PALESTINIANS FOR SECURITY-RELATED OFFENSES, AS WELL AS 30 TO 40 SHIITES ROUNDED UP IN LEBANON.

SOME 200 TO 400 SHIITES ARE BELIEVED HELD BY LAHD'S MILITIA IN AL KHIAM, 5 KILOMETERS (3 MILES) NORTH OF ISRAEL'S BORDER.

LAHD HEADS A 1,500-MEMBER PREDOMINANTLY CHRISTIAN MILITIA TRAINED BY ISRAEL TO PATROL A 10-TO-16 KILOMETER (6-TO-10 MILE) WIDE BUFFER STRIP ALONG THE LEBANON-ISRAEL BORDER.

END (SMS-RS)

0727G 19 02 87

Probl. of Israelis in Leb + Kidnapping + Swap

H5Q4

Q Q1 888

LEAD LEBANON

EDS: NEW CABINET FACES MAJOR CRISIS WITH ISRAEL

BY FAROUK NASSAR

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BEIRUT, LEBANON (AP) - LEBANON'S NEWLY FORMED NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT FACED AN APPARENT MAJOR CRISIS WITH ISRAEL WEDNESDAY EVEN BEFORE IT WAS ABLE TO HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING UNDER PRESIDENT AMIN GEMAYEL.

THE CRISIS DEVELOPED OVER THE MYSTERIOUS ARREST OF THREE ISRAELIS IN SYRIAN-CONTROLLED NORTHERN LEBANON TUESDAY. ISRAEL'S STATE RADIO SAID WEDNESDAY THAT PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK SHAMIR'S GOVERNMENT HELD THE LEBANESEGOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ARREST.

THE RADIO SAID ISRAEL HAS ASKED THE UNITED STATES , FRANCE AND THE UNITED NATIONS TO INTERVENE AND SECURE THE SAFE RELEASE OF THE THREE ISRAELIS, WHO SERVED WITH A ''LIAISON OFFICE'' ISRAEL RETAINED IN THE CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED SUBURB OF DBAYE NORTH OF BEIRUT.

THE ''VOICE OF FREE LEBANON'' RADIO STATION OF THE RIGHTIST CHRISTIAN ''LEBANESE FORCES'' MILITIA SAID SYRIAN TROOPS ARRESTED THE THREE ISRAELIS AFTER THEY LOST THEIR WAY AND STRAYED INTO SYRIAN-CONTROLLED TERRITORY IN THE NORTHERN LEBANESE BATROUN REGION.

MORE (FN-GGL)

Q2MAY84

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BEIRUT - LEAD LEBANON 2

THE RADIO SAID THE THREE WERE TRAVELING IN A CAR ON THE COASTAL HIGHWAY NORTH OF BEIRUT. THEY PASSED THE BARBARA CHECKPOINT OF THE LEBANESE FORCES MILITIA ON THE MADFOUN BRIDGE IN BATROUN AND WENT PAST A NEARBY LEBANESE ARMY CHECKPOINT, ACCORDING TO THE BROADCAST.

WHEN LEBANESE SOLDIERS SHOUTED WARNINGS TO THE ISRAELIS THAT THEY WERE RUNNING INTO A SYRIAN ARMY CHECKPOINT JUST 100 METERS (YARDS) AWAY, THE ISRAELIS SWERVED AND TURNED THE CAR BACK. BUT THE SYRIANS OPENED FIRE AND THE CAR OVERTURNED, THE RADIO SAID.

THE THREE ISRAELIS, UNHURT, SPRINTED TO TAKE REFUGE WITH THE LEBANESE ARMY CHECKPOINT. BUT SYRIAN TROOPS SURROUNDED THE CHECKPOINT, OPENED FIRE IN THE AIR AND FORCED LEBANESE SOLDIERS TO TURN OVER THE THREE ISRAELIS.

STATE-RUN BEIRUT RADIO SAID THE LEBANESE ARMY COMMAND HAS DENIED THAT ITS TROOPS HAD ARRESTED THE THREE STRAYING ISRAELIS. THE RADIO GAVE THIS VERSION OF THE INCIDENT:

''THE ISRAELIS HAD PASSED THE LEBANESE ARMY'S CHECKPOINT ON THE MADFOUN BRIDGE WITHOUT KNOWING THEY WERE APPROACHING A CHECKPOINT IN THE SECTOR CONTROLLED BY SYRIAN FORCES. WHEN THEY (THE ISRAELIS) TRIED TO TURN BACK, SYRIAN TROOPS OPENED FIRE AND HIT THE CAR, AND UNCONFIRMED REPORTS SAID THE SYRIAN FORCES HAVE ARRESTED THE ISRAELIS.''

MORE (FN-GGL)

GGL 1134AM2MAY84 MOM

H506

Q 01 888

BEIRUT -- LEAD LEBANON 3

ISRAEL RADIO SAID SHAMIR'S GOVERNMENT SET UP TWO WORKING TEAMS, ONE ATTACHED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND ONE TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE IN JERUSALEM, TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF THE THREE ISRAELIS.

THE ''VOICE OF FREE LEBANON'' SAID IN A LATER BROADCAST THE FATE OF THE THREE ISRAELIS COULD NOT BE DETERMINED. IT SAID ONE REPORT IT RECEIVED SAID LEBANESE TROOPS HAD TAKEN THE THREE ISRAELIS TO AN ARMY BARRACKS IN SUMMAR JBEIL IN THE BATROUN REGION AND THAT IT WAS THERE THAT SYRIAN TROOPS TOOK CUSTODY OF THE ISRAELIS.

THE RADIO SAID LEBANESE EX-PRESIDENT SULEIMAN FRANJIEH'S ''MARADA (GIANTS) BRIGADE'' MILITIA IS ALSO ACTIVE IN THE SUMMAR JBEIL AREA.

FRANJIEH, A MARONITE CATHOLIC, IS A STAUNCH ALLY OF SYRIA.

ISRAEL RETAINED THE DBAYE LIAISON OFFICE DESPITE THE PRESIDENT AMIN GEMAYEL'S ABROGATION LAST MARCH OF LEBANON'S TROOP WITHDRAWAL ACCORD WITH THE JEWISH STATE UNDER WHICH THE OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED.

THE AFFAIR IS BOUND TO BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THE NEW LEBANESE GOVERNMENT UNDER SYRIAN-BACKED PRIME MINISTER RASHID KARAMI TO CLOSE DOWN THE ISRAELI OFFICE.

GEMAYEL, 42, AND THE 62-YEAR-OLD SUNNI MOSLEM KARAMI, HAVE AGREED TO CONVENE THE FIRST SESSION OF THE NEWLY FORMED HALF-CHRISTIAN , HALF-MOSLEM 10-MAN CABINET EVEN IF MOSLEM WARLORDS FAIL TO ATTEND, PRESIDENTIAL PALACE SOURCES SAID.

MORE (FN-GGL)

02MAY84

MOM

H507

Q 01 888

BEIRUT -- LEAD LEBANON 4

THE CABINET MEETING HAS BEEN SET FOR 11 A.M. (0800GMT) AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN SUBURBAN BAABDA, EIGHT KILOMETERS (FIVE MILES) EAST OF BEIRUT.

KARAMI AND TWO OTHER MOSLEM MINISTERS FLEW BY HELICOPTER FROM MOSTLY MOSLEM WEST BEIRUT SHORTLY BEFORE THE DEADLINE.

PRESIDENTIAL PALACE SOURCES SAID AT LEAST FOUR CHRISTIAN MINISTERS WERE EXPECTED TO SHOW UP FOR THE FIRST CABINET MEETING.

BUT SHIITE MOSLEM LEADER NABIH BERRI AND DRUSE CHIEFTAIN WALID JUMBLATT, WHOSE MILITIAS GAINED POWER AGAINST CHRISTIAN FORCES IN THE LATEST CIVIL WAR ROUNDS, WERE STILL IN SYRIA AT THE TIME THE NEW CABINET WAS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ITS MEETING.

LOCAL RADIO, 4TH GRAF LEBANON H501

(FN-GGL)

02MAY84

Swapping

RTT5580 3 i 324
^BC-Lebanon-Israel, 1st Ld-Writethru

^Hezbollah, Israeli-allied militia swap prisoners<
^Eds: UPDATES with exchange completed, CORRECTS that all prisoners exchanged at Bater-Jezzine crossing, ADDS meeting with Hezbollah leader.<

SIDON, Lebanon (AP) _ The Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army militia on Monday exchanged three Hezbollah prisoners for a militiaman held by the guerrilla group.

The exchange, which took place at the Bater-Jezzine mountain crossing east of Sidon, was supervised by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

A Red Cross vehicle picked up the Hezbollah prisoners _ Jaafar Ali Hreish, Naameh Yussef Bazi and Mohammed Ali Hazimeh _ from the Khiam detention center in the Israeli-occupied border enclave in the South and took them to the crossing. They were met at the crossing by Hezbollah representatives.

Another Red Cross vehicle transported George Khoury to the crossing to be handed over to the South Lebanon Army militia.

The Bater-Jezzine mountain crossing is one of several linking government-controlled regions in the North with Israel's self-styled ``security zone'' in the South.

The zone, set up in 1985, is patrolled by Israel and its militia allies.

The three freed Hezbollah fighters later met with Hezbollah's deputy secretary-general, Sheik Naim Kassem. The Iranian-backed Hezbollah, or Party of God, has been leading the fight to drive Israel out of Lebanon.

Kassem said all three men had been detained since 1985. He pledged to increase efforts to get all Arab prisoners freed from Israeli jails.

More than 100 prisoners are believed held at the Khiam detention center in the Israeli-controlled zone.

In July, Israel freed 45 Hezbollah prisoners and returned the bodies of 123 guerrillas in exchange for the remains of two Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon 10 years ago and for the release of 17 captured allied militiamen.

^prvs-eap<

071830 apr 97

South

Swap

RTT0144 3 i 173 /
^BC-Lebanon-Prisoners<

^Hezbollah Offers Prisoner Swap With Israeli-Backed Militia<

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _ The Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrilla group offered Sunday to exchange a captured militiaman of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army for guerrillas held in Israeli-occupied south Lebanon.

Sheik Naim Qassem, Hezbollah's deputy secretary general, said guerrilla infiltrators captured the man a week ago in the border enclave Israel calls its ``security zone.''

``We're ready to exchange him if they accept,'' Qassem told a rally.

Last month, Hezbollah, or Party of God, exchanged the remains of two Israeli soldiers along with 17 captured SLA militiamen for 45 Hezbollah prisoners and the remains of more than 120 guerrillas killed in south Lebanon. The swap was arranged by Germany.

The Shiite Muslim Hezbollah says about 112 prisoners, including 40 guerrillas, remain held in Khiam prison in the occupied sector by the SLA, a 2,500-man force armed, funded and trained by Israel.

^SFG-EB<

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